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SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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BURMA

BRIEFS

PEOPLE'S ARMY CLASHES--On 1 May, a small unit of the People's Army ambushed a convoy of enemy vehicles on Mong Hpayak-(Tane) Road, destroying four vehicles, killing four enemy soldiers and wounding several others. Two enemy soldiers were taken prisoner. Two G-2's, two G-3's and other military supplies were seized from the enemy. On 4 May, a clash took place with the military government's mercenary 6th Rifles Regiment at (Hka Pyin). Three enemy soldiers died and more than 20 others were wounded in the clash. One carbine and one G-2 were seized from the enemy. Two telegraphic transmitters of the enemy were also destroyed. [Text] [BK240725 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese to Burma 0030 GMT 24 May 81]

CSO: 4211/20

PARTY POLITICS IN STATE ELECTIONS ANALYZED

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 May 81 p 8

[Article by K. K. Katyal]

[Text]

POLITICAL parties of all hues have been caught in dilemmas and because of this they are not at peace with themselves. They find it hard to stick to positions taken at the national level due to compulsions in the States. Had it been a conscious effort at decentralising decision-taking processes, it would have been a welcome development. One could then be happy that the spirit of federalism has asserted itself in political management. But is this the case?

There is the spectacle of the Bharatiya Janata Party ceasing to be untouchable for the CPI(M), or of the Congress (I), Congress (U) and the Janata Party developing like-mindedness in West Bengal and of the marxists unwittingly helping the Congress (I) Government in Assam to stave off a challenge to its existence. And the talk of the Congress (I) and the BJP having a shared interest—in Kerala—is not a fantastic nonsense that it ought to be.

It is a queer phenomenon. What makes it noteworthy is that it covers all parties and several States.

The CPI(M)-BJP episode, in the beginning, was a peripheral development but fed a serious political debate after curious unexpected twists. The West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, appeared to be thinking aloud when, after a week-end politburo meeting last month, he spoke of the CPI(M)'s plan to approach other parties, "including the BJP", for a united front to foil the Centre's bid to topple non-Congress (I) State Governments. Mr. Basu was optimistic about a consensus at the national level even if the State units of some parties, because of local factors, were reluctant to join such a move.

No stray thought

But it was no stray thought. This much was clear from the statement on the politburo's conclusions released two days

later, and its annotation by the party's General Secretary, Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad. The CPI(M), it was clear, after due deliberations had favoured a call for a united fight by "all political parties, groups and organisations, regardless of differences on socio-economic issues" against authoritarian moves, of which the attack on the non-Congress (I) Governments was one and the BJP, among others, was intended to be contacted.

This was a departure from the past when on several occasions—be it the Opposition (six-party) front or a plan to submit a joint memorandum to the President—the CPI(M) did not want to be seen in the company of the BJP.

The new line, perhaps, is intended to ensure that the BJP does not jump over to the Congress (I) side of the fence in Kerala or that it does not oblige the Centre by providing it a pretext to take over the State's administration. The CPI(M), obviously, is not unmindful of the point that the Kerala clashes between its cadres and RSS members could be interpreted by the Centre as breakdown of law and order which, under the Constitution, justifies Central action.

Change in CPI(M) line

The CPI(M) shed its allergy to the BJP not because the latter had emerged as a reckonable factor at the national level but because its support was important in Kerala (just as its enmity could cost the CPI(M) dearly) Kerala, doubtlessly, dictated a change in the party's line.

And, ironically, Kerala was also responsible for the negative BJP response. For was not the first draft of the political resolution adopted by the party's National Council at Cochin last week changed at the instance, among others, of the members from Kerala so as to rule out collaboration

with the marxists? The earlier reference was mild and ambiguous and left scope for confusion, especially because a sizable section of the party was against spurning the marxist move.

If it was not easy for the marxists to think of the BJP as a source of support, the BJP, too, had a tough time in evolving a coherent response to what was variously described as the marxists "offer" or "overture". The initial ambivalence required considerable effort to be cleared. Though the dominant sentiment was opposed to joining the CPI(M), even in the fight against the Congress (I), there was some suspense till the end of the Cochin meeting because of the persistence shown by the minority.

The earlier formulation sought to maintain a balance—or equidistance—between various political forces as was evident from the presidential address of Mr. A. B. Vajpayee. If the Congress (I) Government at the Centre encroaches upon the autonomy of State Governments and tries to topple non-Congress (I) Governments we shall oppose it. But, at the same time, if the CPI(M) interprets its electoral success in a State as a licence to liquidate its opponents, we shall resist this effort with as much determination.

Later, however, it faced squarely the issues raised by the CPI(M) and took a categorical stand; the discussions revealed differing shades of opinion—and this stood out despite the unanimity of the final decision.

The West Bengal scenario is confusing too. That the opponents of the Left Front Government—Congress (I), Congress (U), Janata Party and Lok Dal—are strange bed-fellows is obvious. That the State units of these parties were not inhibited in chalking out their strategies by their respective national lines was not in doubt either. What baffled outsiders was the inconsistency in their dealings, from time to time. Their attitude towards the municipal elections explained the point.

West Bengal scenario

Initially, the Opposition groups decided on a boycott—the decision, though taken individually acquired a collective form—but later the Congress (U) and the Janata Party changed their minds. The State Congress (I) was doubly embarrassed, let down by its "allies" it had to do a lot of explaining to its high command which wanted the party to try its luck in the civic poll and reluctantly agreed to a boycott only when told that other Opposition groups, too, would be keeping out of it, in view of the large-scale irregularities in the compiling of voters' lists.

Swinging to the other extreme, the Congress (I) not only resolved to take part in the by-elections to the State Assembly and the Lok Sabha but also—out of chagrin, obviously—decided to go it alone.

Here, the Congress (U) cut an equally sorry figure. The State activists, led by Mr. P. R. Das Munshi, in their anti-marxist zeal committed themselves to an arrangement with the Congress (I), taking for granted the approval of the party's central leaders. As it turned out later, Mr. Das Munshi merited the mind of his colleagues in the party Working Committee. Matters were made worse by Congress (I)—inspired reports from New Delhi that Mrs. Gandhi had okayed a plan for a joint agitation by the two Congresses in West Bengal. This naturally infuriated the central leaders. "The Congress (U) is a party in Opposition and plans its strategy on the basis of its assessment of the political situation and in doing so, does not depend on the Prime Minister's approval", said Mr. Unnikrishnan, party General Secretary. Obviously, party leaders at the Centre and in the State were operating at different wave-lengths.

CPI(M)'s Assam policy

In Assam, the Congress (I) minority Government, perhaps, would not have survived if the CPI(M) members had not abstained from the Assembly during a crucial division on a motion of no-confidence six weeks ago. The marxists, thus, were instrumental in coming to the rescue of the Congress (I)—an unimaginable proposition in the present day context.

No chance occurrence, this was a considered policy decision of the party's central leaders, accepted by the State group with noticeable reluctance. Marxist MLAs were associated with the censure move—and this fact was a truer index of their mood than their absence at the clinching stage. It was no easy decision for the CPI(M) required as it was to choose between the Congress (I) and an Opposition grouping, sympathetic to the agitators. On the issue of foreign nationals, the marxists had been closer to the Central Government viewpoint than to that of the Opposition elements, and this made the choice in Assam hard.

Little wonder, therefore, that tongues began wagging on the eve of the Assam Assembly session about a deal between the Congress (I) and the CPI(M) and some papers carried speculative reports laced with the accounts of a meeting between two CPI(M) politburo members, Mr. P. Ramamurti and Mr. Harkushen Singh Surjeet with the Union Home Minister, Mr. Zail Singh. This was denied by the marxist leaders who ridiculed the talk of a deal involving support to the Congress (I) in Assam in exchange for an assurance against Central action in marxist-ruled States.

The trend is disturbing, particularly because the political elite seeks to rationalise the contradictions, that flow from their actions. It raises important basic questions: Is something inherently wrong with the political system? Or are those managing the system unable to get over their inadequacies?

'STATESMAN' WARNS ON U.S. ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN

BK110703 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 25 Apr 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Playing With Fire"]

[Text] The extent and scope of expected U.S. military assistance for Pakistan considerably exceeds earlier estimates. The Pakistani president's gamble in turning down Mr Carter's \$400 million has certainly paid off. For not only is the Republican administration reportedly offering \$2.5 billion, but the 5-year aid programme might be expected to serve much the same purpose as the defence treaty that Islamabad desired without, however, the drawback of formal damage to the country's nonaligned status. India cannot question another country's right to seek the weapons it considers necessary, though any talk of parity between neighbours of such unequal size is obviously ridiculous. But there is a crucial difference in the reasoning with which Washington and Islamabad justify the alliance. False pretences might be too strong a term to use, but there is an element of prevarication in the arguments Pakistan publicly puts forward to claim American sympathy, and which differ substantially from its real perception of where its military needs lie.

Mr Alexander Haig clearly views Pakistan as a major citadel in the line of fortifications raised to contain Soviet expansionism. His lavish praise for General Zia's resistance of "foreign intervention" and for the general's "great generosity" in accommodating Afghan rebels indicates the path that Islamabad must follow to deserve continued U.S. support. Pakistan, however, would not be foolhardy enough to dream either of taking on the Soviet Union or of active involvement in Afghan affairs. Unwilling to invite retaliation from the north and west, therefore, Islamabad fixes its attention on the east where India continues to offer the most important clue to Pakistani military thinking. Even if this country's experience of the use to which, regardless of Washington's repeated pledges, U.S. arms were put in three sub-continental wars is brushed aside by Mr Reagan, his administration can hardly ignore the fact that, talk of the Soviet-Afghan threat notwithstanding, the entire Pakistani army remains poised on India's borders.

The immediate effect of a formidable influx of weapons into Pakistan, with long-term plans for sophisticated technology with deadly striking power, would be to lay an even heavier burden of defence spending on India. The liability is all the greater because New Delhi cannot afford to leave the Himalayan border unguarded.

The impact on economic development in the two countries, and the psychological effects of an arms race, could be equally damaging. Nor can opinion within Pakistan be without some unease about U.S. sponsorship which will inevitably encourage General Zia to perpetuate his rule and suppress all forms of legitimate dissent with even greater ruthlessness. Lastly, if Pakistan is to be used as a staging post to route American military help to the Gulf, the entire west, south-west and south Asian region will be suicidally drawn into Mr Haig's theatre of operations.

CSO: 4220/7716

PAPER PESSIMISTIC OVER RAO'S PAKISTAN VISIT

BK071507 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 1 May 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Towards Amity?"]

[Text] It would be naive to set much store by Mr Narasimha Rao's forthcoming visit to Pakistan. Given the history, and totality, of India-Pakistan relations, such contacts can hardly be expected to yield spectacular results, particularly in the present context of heightened tensions and uncertainties contributed to a not inconsiderable measure by the American decision to provide large quantities of military hardware to Pakistan. Similar developments in the past have triggered countervailing moves by India, deepened mutual distrust, renewed the war psychosis and, whether there has been actual war or not, gravely damaged the prospects of amity between the two countries.

The need is the greater therefore to try to improve relations. The Narasimha Rao visit is in line with periodic efforts to remove misgivings. Mrs Gandhi's special emissary, Mr Swaran Singh, and the foreign secretary went to Pakistan last year with this objective. He will reiterate Mrs Gandhi's assurances in her letter to Gen Zia earlier this year that India remained committed to Pakistan's independence, territorial integrity and sovereign equality. As an earnest of India's desire for friendship, New Delhi is reported to be prepared to discuss any issue Pakistan may wish to raise.

Whether Gen Zia will grasp this opportunity remains highly debatable. Despite the moderate statements made by him in recent weeks, he presides over a dispensation whose controlled media have seldom been averse to whipping up anti-Indian emotions. It is a game almost all his predecessors have played whenever their own positions have seemed uncertain. This is unfortunate, but it should not deter India from its quest for better relations most people in the two countries undoubtedly desire.

CSO: 4220/7716

INDIA

MP HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON RETURN FROM PRC

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, April 28.--Mr Subramaniam Swamy, M.P., said here today that the forthcoming Sino-Indian talks would be a test of our country's non-alignment policy depending on how it is conducted by Mrs Gandhi.

Addressing a Press conference after his return from China, the USA and Canada, Mr Swamy said the impression he received after his meeting with Mr Deng Xiaoping was that China was anxious to reopen the border talks and wanted to have repeated discussions. That was why the Foreign Minister, Mr Huang Hua, was visiting India on June 26.

He suggested that India follow a "give and take policy" and had found after examining some documents that China's claim to the border was "shallow" and India's stand was not very strong.

Mr Swamy described his recent visit to Beijing and his talks with China's strongman, Mr Deng Xiaoping, as "symbolic".

The Janata Party stormy petrel had nothing but praise for the treatment meted out to him by the External Affairs Ministry compared to the time when his party was in power.

He suggested that the Sino-Indian talks be without any pre-conditions. He said a Joint Border Commission could be set up with some prominent politicians, militarymen and historians as its members. Historians should not be left out, he added.

At the outset he said he was happy to find a strong feeling prevailing in the country demanding that India go nuclear. Describing India as an "elder brother", he said it should adapt a positive strategic nuclear doctrine and not do something just to countermine Pakistan.

He was not going out of his way to meet Mrs Gandhi. But, if she sent for him, he would gladly go. According to him, the Indian Ambassador in China has already sent a detailed report of his talks to the External Affairs Ministry.

Referring to his visit to the USA where he met the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Mr Agha Shahi, he said India had cut a sorry figure by protesting to the USA about its decision to arm Pakistan. He thought it would have been better for India to have a direct talk with Pakistan on the issue instead of raising the issue in America.

CSO: 4220/7679

FURTHER REPORTS ON JANATA MEETINGS PUBLISHED

Resolution on Political Situation

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 May 81 p 1

(Text) JP Nagar (Bangalore), May 2.

India should produce the nuclear bomb if Pakistan produces one. This is the pith and substance of a resolution unanimously adopted by the national executive committee of the Janata party here today.

The decorous language of the resolution, however, put it this way: In case Pakistan persists in its efforts to build a nuclear weapon, the Janata party may be left with no option but to advocate a matching nuclear effort on the part of India to defend its security and integrity.

The Janata party would be compelled to adopt this posture, it was stated, in spite of its commitment to peaceful co-existence and genuine non-alignment.

The pacifist views of Mr. Morarji Desai and some other members were also accommodated in the resolution which suggested to the government of India to use every diplomatic way to persuade Pakistan to desist from making the bomb.

Supposing Pakistan did not agree to India's persuasion, as the party president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said, India would have to respond to the initiative taken by Pakistan in the interest of its security.

The national executive noted that the fact Pakistan was heavily arming itself was well-known. There were reports from many quarters to indicate that Gen. Zia's government was making efforts to manufacture an atom bomb. That Pakistan would have no capability to use such a nuclear weapon against Russia, a superpower, or China, its ally, was obvious.

The only target that appeared to be within Pakistan's reach and perspective was India. The Janata party would like to urge the government of Pakistan, in all seriousness, not to start a nuclear race in the subcontinent.

The committee's reference to the nuclear bomb was contained in its omnibus resolution on the political situation.

Mr. Bhaskar's inaugural address to a meeting of Janata workers from six southern states, including Goa and Pondicherry, was generally in line with the resolution passed by the national executive on the bomb issue.

He, however, regretted that the best of relations with neighbouring countries established by the Janata rule had been destroyed. The people now heard threats of a Indo-Pak war. "We do not know Mrs. Gandhi's aim nor the intentions of the Pakistan government." He pleaded against creating a war psychosis.

The Janata initiative in trying to establish peace and amity between the people of India and Pakistan and see that superpowers would not make the region an area of cold war should continue, the Janata chief said.

Domestic Situation Described

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 May 81 p 9

[Text] JP Nagar, (Bangalore), May 2.

The Janata party will resist any attempt of the ruling Congress (I) at the Centre to scuttle the constitutionally elected governments in West Bengal and Kerala. At the same time, it will also struggle against "authoritarianism" of the CPM-led governments in these states, besides Tripura.

A resolution passed by the Janata national executive committee meeting here today said that the Congress(I) government at the Centre and the left front governments "looked alike" in some respects.

The fact that the CPM was aligned in some states outside West Bengal and Kerala with it in their fight against the Congress(I) authoritarianism did not deter the Janata workers from asserting the same values in the left front-run states.

All its democratic pretensions notwithstanding, the CPM was trying to use the apparatus of the state to dominate every walk of life and dictate to other parties and groups. The executive said the Marxists' objective was to destroy the opposition by making it impossible for them to pursue even peaceful activities.

The resolution said the Congress(I) had failed to fulfil any of the assurances it had given to the people. The government's achievement was not only nil but negative in controlling inflation, maintaining law and order, providing employment, giving remunerative prices to agriculturists and making available adequate supplies of consumer goods.

The Janata executive regretted that in the recent past, the situation had deteriorated even further. The misery and frustration of the people had been compounded by new tensions on account of students' agitation in Gujarat and farmers' movements in Karnataka and elsewhere.

The only response of the government to the agitations was the use of lathis and bullets. Pushed to the wall, some elements in Assam and the north-east were resorting to violence and underground activities.

Gangs of marauders had become bold enough to attack trains and buses and plunder passengers. Derogation of the judiciary had been intensified. Even the chief justice of the supreme court had to speak out in defence of independence of the judiciary.

The Janata executive said that the propaganda to change the present parliamentary system into a presidential one continued despite the Prime Minister's assertion that she did not want such a change.

On Jammu and Kashmir, the resolution said that the rumblings there for some time had been ominous enough, but what was surprising was the reaction of Sheikh Abdullah, the state chief minister, threatening the integrity of the Indian Union.

The resolution deplored brinkmanship, whether it was practised by Delhi or Srinagar, and hoped the Sheikh, "the elder statesman that he is," would soon make it possible to sort out the differences. But Mrs. Gandhi and the Sheikh would do well to remember that they could not divide the people of the country, whether in respect of Jammu and Kashmir or elsewhere, to suit variations in their personal relationship.

Party Workers' Meeting Opens

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 May 81 p 9

[Text] JP Nagar (Bangalore), May 2: The Janata party president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said here today that the Congress(I) governments in Assam, the north-eastern region and elsewhere were collapsing.

Some people felt that it was Mrs. Gandhi's authoritarian rule that created problems in the country, but he felt that it was the total lack of moral authority under her which was the root cause of all trouble.

Mr. Shekhar attributed Mrs. Gandhi's "failure" to her dependence on the exercise of the powers of the state. She did not depend on the cooperation of the people.

He was inaugurating a largely-attended two-day convention of Janata workers of six southern states, including Goa and Pondicherry.

The party general secretary, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, estimated that the delegates numbered between 40,000 and 50,000. It was certainly one of the biggest Janata gatherings here.

The convention is to discuss common problems in the southern states. As a political move, it was the Janata's biggest thrust in the south.

PTI adds:

The convention demanded remunerative prices for the farmers to "adequately cover their cost of production and cost of living".

Moving the draft resolution, Mr. M. S. Gurupadaswamy, former Union minister of state, said that the agricultural and the rural sectors should get larger financial outlay and greater technical assistance,

The resolution said that a fair share of the benefits from the country's economic development should go to the farming community.

By another resolution, the convention demanded judicial inquiry into the police firings in various parts of Karnataka resulting in the killing of 69 people during the past one year.

Another draft resolution called upon the party workers to "wholeheartedly organise, guide and support the farmers' movement so that they succeed in securing their legitimate demands."

Last Day of Workers' Meeting

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 May 81 p 9

[Text] Bangalore, May 3

The Planning Commission was just a ritual with the Economic Administration Reforms Commission under the Chairmanship of Mr. L. K. Jha, acting as a "super" planning commission, said Mr. Chandra Shekhar, Janata Party President, here on Sunday.

Winding up the two-day Janata party convention of Southern States, Mr. Chandra Shekar [as published] alleged that the Reforms Commission was meant to reduce the status of the Finance Minister, Mr. Venkataraman. "To ridicule [as published] planning and the progressive steps comes very natural to the Jha commission that wants the country to go for the free market system, larger role to multinationals and Indian monopoly houses and more aid instead of efforts to make India self-reliant and self-sufficient", he added.

Nuclear option: Mr. Chandra Shekar [as published] said his party did not want India to manufacture atom bomb straightway. All diplomatic efforts should be made to dissuade Pakistan from producing nuclear weapons. However if Pakistan persisted in its efforts to make nuclear weapons, India would have no other alternative (but to have a matching effort).

He said a sensitive situation was created in Kashmir and appealed to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi not to create another trouble-spot in the country. He also appealed to Sheikh Abdullah to try to see that the situation did not worsen in spite of provocation from Mrs. Gandhi. [as published]

Minorities' problems: The Janata General Secretary, Mr. Syed Shahbuddin, supporting the party's political resolution referred to the step taken by the Janata Government in appointing a Minorities Commission and said three vacancies in the commission were yet to be filled. The Commission could not function effectively and was being destroyed. The problem of minorities had worsened.

He said during 1980 there were 414 communal incidents in the country and recalled that when the Janata was in power such incidents were less than half that number.

Mr. Babu Kaldate, General Secretary, said the Janata party organisation lacked discipline and not devotion.

Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, General Secretary, said the message of the Bangalore convention, was determination and self-confidence to strengthen the party.

Economic ills: In a resolution on the economic situation adopted at the conference, the party urged the Centre and the State Governments to take urgent steps to tackle the present stagflation and unemployment.

Economic anarchy was looming large, the collapse of the administration was becoming pronounced and corruption was taking hold of all aspects of social life, it said.

Welfare schemes reversed: The party charged the Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi with having reversed or bypassed the Janata Government's time-bound welfare programmes out of malice or vendetta.

The suggestion given by the party to revive the economy are to cut down unproductive Government expenditure by at least ten per cent, promote cottage and small-scale industries and support appropriate technology.

In its political resolution, the party said certain important elements of the ruling Congress were spreading the lie that most of the present ills of the country, could be traced to democracy in its present form. This was a dangerous doctrine, it said.

The party in its final resolution reiterated its support to the continuance of the present policy of reservation for backward classes.

In the draft resolution, the party had favoured adoption of social and economic backwardness as the criteria for determining backwardness.

Border disputes: The party called for a moratorium on all border disputes among the States. It wanted a consensus among all parties and groups on vital national issues.

Other demands included reduction of voting age from 21 to 18, effective implementation of the three-language formula in letter and spirit and changes in electoral law to prevent defection.

The party wanted the Government to avoid abridgement of the rule of law and promote respect for the independence of the judiciary.

Panel on farm tax suggested: The Party National Executive adopted a resolution on Saturday suggesting the setting up of a National Commission on agricultural taxation.

The Executive also wanted liberal sanctioning of cooperative loans and abolition of land revenue.

The party condemned the Karnataka Government for the death of 69 farmers in police firings and wanted judicial inquiries in all the cases.

Farm loans: Addressing the convention on Saturday, Mr. Morarji Desai, former Prime Minister, said a farmer who wanted his loan to be written off did not deserve to be called an agriculturist. However, he could understand farmers asking for repayment of the loan in easy instalments and at a fair rate of interest.

CSO: 4220/7694

INDIA

PAKISTANI PRESS ON COUNTRY'S SECESSIONIST MOVEMENTS

GF251056 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 20 May 81 p 5

[Article by Kaleem Akhtar: "What is the Tamilnadu Issue?"]

[Excerpts] The flames of unrest have flared up once again in the southern Indian province of Tamilnadu. The Brahmins and the Dravidians are once again at loggerheads with each other. The majority of the inhabitants of this province, which was formerly known as Madras, are Dravidians. After independence, they initiated a nationalist campaign in which the Indian Constitution was burned and the Hindi language was opposed.

In 1967, Tamilnadu defeated the political ideology of the congress party and set up a separate organization known as "D.M.K." This party served the people of the province and tried to resolve their problems. It maintained its ties with the center, but it also fought for its rights. Although there were many political and ideological differences between the center and the province, both sides were willing to resolve mutual problems. There were many disturbances in Tamilnadu, but the credit for maintaining control over the situation goes to the chief minister, I.M.G. Ramchandran, whose policy is to maintain a "love-hate" relationship with the center.

The Tamilnadu party is currently in the opposition. Mr Ramachandran is the head of the non-congress ministry, but he is opposed to taking a stand against the center. Mrs Gandhi, on the other hand, is trying to abolish the ministry. According to Ramachandran, the D.M.K. leader, Mr Kromandhi, is trying to jeopardize relations between Madras and Delhi.

When Mrs Gandhi was formerly in power, Tamilnadu remained beyond her sphere of influence for over 10 years, and the Congress Party was not successful [in] the province.

There have been cases of violence in Tamilnadu's Dharmapodhi and Arakot districts. Recently, the Brahmins brutally murdered 15 Dravidians and burned their bodies. The Dravidians consequently set fire to the Brahmins' homes and started a campaign against them. The violence is increasing despite police security measures. Both areas are considered to be the most impoverished in Tamilnadu. The elements claiming responsibility for these incidents call themselves Naxalites or Naxal Bari campaigners.

Tamilnadu is facing the following problems: 1. Mrs Gandhi wants to terminate Ramachandran's ministry and establish a congress ministry, and she is negotiating with the D.M.K. in this connection. Ramachandran's party is protesting this action. 2. The Naxalites' subversive activities are increasing due to foreign backing. 3. The issue of Dravidian nationalism has assumed a sensitive dimension, and the Dravidians consider their region to be a separate entity.

CSD: 4203/76

ALL INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE PARLEY PASSES RESOLUTIONS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 May 81 p 7

[Text] Kozhikode, May 3 (PTI)--The possibilities of unity between the All India Muslim League (AIML) and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in Kerala have receded further.

The delegates session of the AIML in a resolution today said that the IUML would not be able to serve the cause of Muslim minority as long as they had alliance with "communal and authoritarian forces."

The resolution released to press by party secretary, Issuddin, accused the IUML of being "prisoners of vested interests and communal and authoritarian forces" and said the IUML was not in a position to take an independent decision on its own.

The resolution recalled the two rounds of unity talks held earlier and said as far as AIML was concerned the doors were still open.

The discussions at the session, Mr Issuddin said, were "free and frank." It was attended by nearly 2,000 delegates including State Minister for Public Work, P M Abubacker, he added.

The party in another resolution said Kerala's Left Democratic Front had fared well in comparison to other non-LDF Governments in the country, though it had not succeeded in fully implementing its election promises.

The resolution said the LDF Government was better suited to safeguard the interests of minorities and could be 'an example for an all-India pattern.'

The resolution also expressed concern over the arms training route marches by RSS and urged the Government to check the same. It also condemned the trend of violence and wanted the Government to take preventive steps to curb it.

The resolution also criticised the Opposition parties of adopting 'double standard' by encouraging violence on the one hand and on the other 'raising the bogey of deteriorating law and order 'so as to blame the LDF Government. [as published]

CSO: 4220/7703

INFORMATION MINISTER ACCUSES SHEIKH OF DISTORTIONS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 May 81 p 4

[Text] Srinagar, May 3.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe today accused Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah of resorting to "malicious and false propaganda" against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by distorting her recent speech in Jammu region and projecting her as being a Hindu communalist.

Mr Sathe was addressing a press conference shortly before returning to New Delhi after a day's visit to the State in connection with the first death anniversary of the Late Shamim Ahmed Shamim former MP.

Asked if he had met Sheikh, he craptically [as published] replied there was no such appointment.

Mr Sathe also charged that Sheikh was openly colluding with the RSS and the BJP elements who he said 'represented western imperialism'.

In this connection Mr Sathe expressed concern over what he called "Sheikh's implicit threat that State's accession with the Indian union could break under certain condition". He said Sheikh was 'crying wolf' by raising "bogey of toppling [as published] conspiracy" despite Mrs Gandhi's categoric public assurance.

He said that Sheikh pleadings for saving Pakistan in face of Soviet menace emanating from Afghanistan amounted to advocating for American game to strengthen military dictatorship of Zia-ul-Haq and carve out their military basis in the Indian Ocean region.

Mr Sathe pointed out that when the whole world was pleading with Zia for sparing Bhutto's life Sheikh had defended Bhutto's hanging by saying that it was Pakistan's internal matter. He wondered why he was now seeking to plead for Pakistan by associating himself with such forums as "friendship for Afghanistan society".

Mr Sathe charged that the ruling National Conference had "identified itself with income tax evaders and smugglers" by opposing the recent raids on certain local exporters.

He ridiculed Sheikh's contention that the income tax raids amounted to attack on individuality and autonomy of Kashmir". [as published] He sarcastically asked "is Kashmir's personality and autonomy symbolised by economic offenders whom the State Government is seeking to protect". He said that the State was expected to welcome such an action by the Centre and extend its help in their execution. [as published]

CSO: 4220/7703

CHINESE GUNS USED IN NAGALAND ASSASSINATION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 May 81 p 4

[Text] Kohima, May 3 (UNI)--Sixty-three rounds were fired from sub-machine guns of Chinese origin to kill the Congress-I MLA Nuklo Konyak and two other persons at Manyakshi in Mon district bordering Burma on Monday.

Chief Secretary Z Obed, who visited the place of ambush, said today that orders had already been issued to stop infiltration [as published] into these areas.

The combined force of Nagaland armed police, security forces and village guards were engaged in these areas to maintain round-the-clock vigil, he said.

Mr Obed also warned the villagers of this area of "serious consequences" if they did not cooperate with the Government to bring the culprits to book.

Mr Obed said that according to preliminary investigations, it appeared that the "cause of the attack was personal vendetta rather than anything political".

The Chief Secretary personally handed over Rs 10,000 to the widow of the late Congress-I MLA and Rs 5,000 to the members of the families of the two others who were killed in the incident.

Four persons were arrested on 1 May in this connection, adds PTI quoting official sources.

CSO: 4220/7703

WRITER DECRIES PREVALENCE OF TERRORISM IN INDIA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 May 81 p 8

[Article by N. S. Saksena]

[Text] It looks as if terrorism in India is there to stay. For, the administration is hardly in a position to stamp it out. In Assam 34 explosions occurred in 1980 and about 50 between January 1 and April 6. We have no idea at all as to who was behind these 84 blasts. The 84th explosion, which tragically took the life a senior IAS officer, [as published] showed a high degree of planning and sophistication. Perhaps a greater tragedy is that the previous 83 incidents did not make the administration sit up and think.

In Kerala, over 90 political murders have occurred in the last 15 months, the latest victim being a postmaster. A few routine arrests have been made but the conspiracy has yet to be cracked. And who killed the security guard at the Delhi residence of Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad, Union minister, on January 25? Again, we do not know.

But there are exceptions to the rule. Etah, a small district in western U.P., is notorious for the close links between local politicians and dacoits. In the second half of last year, two prominent politicians, both former legislators, were murdered one after the other. There was no clue for several months. A young IPS officer in a neighbouring district happened to interrogate a criminal and learnt a good deal. Emboldened by the knowledge that the chief minister would protect him, if necessary, he went ahead with his investigations and finally recovered the body of one of the politicians some four months after it had been secretly buried. One sitting MLA has since been arrested.

Unusual Case

The case is unusual. For 20 years now gangs of criminals in Etah have enjoyed the protection of influential politicians. It was in this district that Mahavira, a dreaded dacoit, had killed more than a dozen persons in 1967. It was here that ten years later, in 1977, Mr. Ram Naresh Yadav, the then chief minister, could get elected but only after another notorious dacoit was liquidated.

It is not in Etah alone, however, that influential politicians manage to get good superintendents of police replaced by weak and "reliable" ones. In quite a few other districts of U.P., as also of Bihar (Dhanbad being among them), the veto

power in the postings of SPs rests, in effect, with the friends and supporters of criminals.

In the past, major criminal conspiracies were always entrusted to the state CID for investigation. There are dozens of respected heroes in the history of the terrorist movement in India but practically all cases were worked out by the state CIDs. Have their successors become so incompetent that they cannot work out even one of the 84 bomb blasts in Assam and one out of the 90 political murders in Kerala?

The trouble is that since the state CID has a sensitive role to play, most chief ministers tend to man it by pliant but incompetent stooges. They have to take a lesson from history: to quote only one example, Trotsky could not have saved revolutionary Russia without putting in command the hated but competent field officers of the Czarist imperialist army. Here in India and the last bulwark against conspiracies--the Central Bureau of Investigation--has been incapacitated by repeated purges during the last four years. It takes some 20 years to produce a competent detective; one can purge but one cannot get replacements. The Kerala government may be toppled but where is the guarantee that the Centre, which cannot discover who is responsible for the explosions in Assam, will fare better in working out the political murders in Kerala?

Quick Remedy

Another cause of the weakness of the investigative machinery can, however, be quickly remedied. Every crime, however petty, should be promptly registered. Competent petty investigators know that big conspiracies have often been unearthed while investigating routine cases like pocket-picking, cycle theft, etc. Many notorious criminals have had small beginnings as smugglers of illicit liquor or organisers of gambling dens.

In any case, deployment of thousands of armed policemen to prevent a saboteur from mischief is no substitute for sound investigation of the kind of crimes that are being perpetrated in Assam. India is not the only country which is being ravaged by the scourge of terrorism. In recent years the U.K., France, West Germany, Italy and Spain have been facing the same problem.

The killing of Lord Mountbatten in August 1979, the attempted killing of General Haig, the then NATO Commander in Brussels, and the killing of several leading industrialists/politicians in West Germany, Italy and France are too recent to be forgotten.

Unfortunately, since the days of Bengal revolutionaries in the first decades of this century two new factors have come into play in this context. The first is the virtual abolition of national frontiers and the second is modern technology. Today terrorists are being trained, equipped and financed by agencies outside the countries in which they operate. The dangers are very serious but fortunately in India there is no shortage of trained and experienced investigators and intelligence officers to be able to cope with them. The political executives must shed personal prejudices and give the detectives a free hand. They must learn not to hinder the operations even if their own friends fall in the net. The selection of chiefs of state CIDs must be made on merit alone.

Though the remedy appears simple, the prospects are bleak due to the increasing politicisation of the criminal investigation departments. The Bangla Bandh on April 3, for instance, was expected to be peaceful. But, in fact, 22 lives were lost and as many as 142 buses or trams were damaged. Thousands of bombs of similar make were apparently used by the so-called miscreants. This points to a deep-rooted criminal conspiracy. The conspirator may be the ultimate winner in the political struggle unless we wake up in time and do something about it.

CSO: 4220/7705

INDIA

RAJYA SABHA DISCUSSES EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 May 81 p 14

[Excerpts] New Delhi, May 4 (PTI):

The external affairs minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, today asserted that at one stage the Indian initiative almost succeeded in solving the Afghanistan problem, but it was thwarted by the matter being taken to the United Nations.

Replying to a discussion on the functioning of his ministry in the Rajya Sabha, he said that, at the U.N., a resolution was passed which could not be acted upon. On the other hand, it blocked all other initiatives.

He denied the opposition charge that there had been a "U turn" in India's stand on the issue after the Congress (I) came to power.

Mr. Rao said that on December 31, 1979, the then prime minister, Mr. Charan Singh, had stated that the presence of the Soviet troops would have far-reaching consequences and hoped that they would withdraw. On the same day, India protested against arms supply by the U.S. to Pakistan.

This, he added, showed that the Congress (I) government was not the first to "build" what had been described by some members as a "war psychosis."

Not Practicable

Mr. Rao said Mrs. Gandhi's government had always maintained that the Afghan people would be able to sort out their internal differences without outside interference and hoped that the Soviet troops would be withdrawn.

But, to demand an unconditional and immediate withdrawal was no practical solution. It would make the issue more complicated.

At the time of the Korean war, Nehru too believed that a kind of approach that created bitterness must be avoided. How a negotiation in which the Afghanistan government did not participate would be meaningful, he asked. That was why India was working for a political solution.

Mr. Rao said India alone had considered the Afghan problem at all levels--local, regional and global. Compared to this, almost the first reaction to the Soviet presence from the then U.S. president, Mr. Jimmy Carter, was that it was meant

for the Persian oil and might have to be dealt with even by use of force. Dr. Henry Kissinger maintained that the main issue was what the countries which relied on the U.S. could expect from it. If such were the issues, how could they be solved?

Ties with Others

Referring to Relations with other countries, Mr. Rao challenged the opposition to show what bridges of friendship were built by the Janata government that the Congress (I) government had blown up. He suggested a debate on India's relations with its neighbours." [as published] An impression is created, a charge is thrown up. Let us come to brass-tacks", he said. [as published]

Earlier resuming the discussion on the working of the ministry, Prof. Rasheeduddin Khan (Nom.) and Mr. Bhupesh Gupta (CPI) said there was a national consensus on India's foreign policy which was appreciated world over.

But the annual report of the ministry equated America and Russia. This should not be done.

Prof. Rasheeduddin Khan said India's "quiet diplomacy" in the context of the developments in Afghanistan had paid dividends so far. The country had a "historic role" to play in safeguarding peace in the region and the world, now threatened by an arms build-up in the Indian Ocean.

He and Mr. Gupta were critical of some of the remarks made by the British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, in her address to Parliament during her recent visit.

Mr. Gupta referred to Mrs. Thatcher's defence of the British nationality bill and said India should demand its withdrawal. If it was not withdrawn, India should consider withdrawing from the Commonwealth.

Mr. Gupta criticised the statement of Mr. Morarji Desai that Pakistan did not pose a threat to India's security. He agreed that the threat did not come from Pakistan but from the United States through Pakistan. The U.S. was heavily arming Pakistan in its new global policy to find an ally in Pakistan after it had lost Iran as an ally in the region.

Regional Ties

The CPI member, however, demanded the strengthening of India's relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh and said India should try to get more and more developing countries out of the arms race.

UNI adds: Mr. Rao allayed the apprehensions of the smaller countries of the region and offered to share with them the advantages of India's size.

He said there was no question of India "dragging" its feet on the proposed regional co-operation for economic upliftment of the peoples of the region.

However, this co-operation had to be examined in all its ramifications. India would not like to rush into something for which it might have to repent later.

He said he would not like to comment on Indo-Pakistani relations and Sino-Indian ties because of his projected visit to Islamabad this month and the Chinese foreign minister's arrival here next month.

Mr. Amar Prasad Chakrabarty (Forward Bloc) and Mr. Sauren Bhattacharya (RSP) walked out of the house when they failed to get time to take part in the discussion.

CSO: 4220/7705

SIKKIM OPPOSES FREER ACCESS FOR ALIEN VISITORS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 May 81 p 7

[Article by Kirit Bhaumik]

[Text] Gangtok, May 5: The suggestion that foreign visitors should be given freer access to this strategic border state as a tourism promotion measure has not been favoured by the tourism conference held here recently.

The Sikkim chief minister, Mr. Nar Bahadur Bhandari, and the tourism minister, Mr. Athup Lepcha, had urged the delegates attending the conference to consider the relaxation of the existing restrictions on foreigners, but the consensus among the participants was against any such step.

For reasons of security, some areas of the state are out of bounds for tourists, and foreigners intending to visit the state have to obtain an inner line permit for a restricted period of stay. The state leaders felt that the restrictions could be relaxed somewhat for promotion tourism.

States Potential

The conference attended by the Union minister of state for tourism and civil aviation, Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar, however fully recognised the state's potential for contributing substantially to the growth of tourism in the country.

Apparently, the Central representatives have assured the state government that, short of doing anything that could interfere with the security needs of the country, the Centre would give the maximum possible help in developing infrastructure and travel facilities to attract more tourists to the state.

According to the Sikkim governor, Mr. Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan, a helicopter service will be started between Bagdogra in North Bengal to Gangtok after the monsoon. This will be the first helicopter passenger service to be started in the country.

Dr. Venkataraman, secretary in the Union civil aviation ministry, indicated at the same time the possibility of converting the tri-weekly Delhi-Bagdogra Boeing service into a daily service.

CSO: 4220/7707

PAYOFF TO GANDHI IN PRE-MARCH '77 IMPORT DEAL ALLEGED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, April 28.--There were noisy scenes in the Rajya Sabha today after Mr Ladli Mohan Nigam (Lok Dal) alleged that a document seized at the residence of a director of Bisleri Company had mentioned a pay-off to Mrs Gandhi in an import deal prior to March 1977.

Mr Nigam's allegation was based on a reply given by the then Finance Minister on May 8, 1979, in the Rajya Sabha to a question put by Mr Kalpanath Rai (C-I). He read out the reply which was: "It is a fact that we raided the premises of Bisleri company and recovered certain documents. We recovered a letter written by Dr Rossi, managing director, to somebody in a foreign country and we got it translated, where it has been mentioned that prior to March 1977 a deal was being struck for the import of 3,000 tons of fibre from that country and an amount of Rs 8 lakhs was to be paid, to be credited in some bank in Hong Kong. And there is a mention about it that it was decided at the political level, and the money was to be paid to Mrs Indira Gandhi. I never wanted to take advantage of the situation, and I was avoiding a reply to the question. The matter is under investigation. I am not one who will reply in a political way, but because you are very insisting, I said the reply would be very uncomfortable and I replied".

Mr Nigam wanted to know what action his Ministry had taken on the documents seized in such raids and what specific steps he had taken against those companies that had violated the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

But the Chairman, Mr M. Hidayatullah, refused to yield to the Congress (I) demand to expunge the reference to the reply of May 8, 1979. He ruled out Mr Nigam's supplementary as irrelevant. Mr Nigam asked his supplementary on a question tabled by two Congress (I) members on searches at the premises of the directors of a Parle group of companies. Mr Sawai Singh Sisodia, Minister of State for Finance, also denied in his reply that any such document had been seized revealing any political pay-off.

Protests

So sooner did Mr Nigam read out the then Finance Minister's reply of May 8, 1979, than Congress (I) members started protesting vehemently. Mr Sita Ram Kesari, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, was the first Minister to protest and call the reply irrelevant. Mr A. P. Sharma, Minister for Civil Aviation,

demanding that the reference made by Mr Nigam be expunged. Mr. Kanbhai Barot, Deputy Finance Minister, was agitated. Equally perturbed was Pranab Mukherjee, leader of the House, but he gestured to Congress (I) members to let Mr Sisodia press for the expunction.

The principal opposition to the demand for expunction came from Mr Piloo Mody (Janata). He was as determined as the Congress (I) members. A harassed Chairman observed: "I have ruled that the question by Mr Nigam is totally irrelevant but it cannot stop him from reading the answer to a question given in this House earlier by a Minister".

Mr A. G. Kulkarni (C-U) stood by Mr Mody. The Janata member also took objection to the protest made by Mr Sharma. "If you are a Minister, behave like one" he told him.

Even after the Chairman had passed on to the next question, the issue remained alive, thanks to the insistence of Mr Sisodia for the expunction of Mr Nigam's supplementary. He said that he wanted to reply to the charge made by Mr Nigam. Mr Mody was on his feet again objecting and wanting to know under which rule the Chairman could allow him to speak on a subject on which he had already given a ruling.

The Chairman said the Minister wanted to say something about the procedure and not about the subject. Mr Mody's contention was that the Chair could not start a new chapter all over again. But Mr Sisodia's point was drowned in the din that followed.

Irrelevant Question

Earlier, when the Chairman agreed with Mr Sisodia that Mr Nigam's was an irrelevant question, Mr Mody remarked that under the same "ruling", the main question should also be ruled out. After all, relevance had to be the same for Mr Nigam as well as Mr J. K. Jain (C-I) who had tabled the main question. Mr Kulkarni also advised Mr Jain not to commit the mistake which Mr Kalpanath Rai had committed while tabling the question on May 8, 1979.

The Chairman ordered official reporters to bring the record to him after he passed over to the next question. He also ordered that points raised by Mrs Purabi Mukherjee (C-U) should not be recorded.

In his reply to the main question, Mr Sisodia said that the Enforcement Directorate searched the premises of Bisleri in Bombay and of its directors, Dr C. Rossi, Mr Ramesh J. Chauhan, Mr Prakash J. Chauhan, and Mr H. M. Golwala in November 1977.

The CBI searched the premises of Bisleri company in Bombay and the premises of Mr Ramesh J. Chauhan, Mr Prakash J. Chauhan and Mr H. M. Golwala and some others in April 1980. The CBI also searched the premises of Dr Rossi and some others in November 1980.

However, no documents regarding payment of a political nature were seized during the searches, the Minister said.

CSO: 4220/7679

INDIA

RAJIV GANDHI'S ENTRY INTO POLITICS DISCUSSED

'INDIAN EXPRESS' on Rajiv

BK231425 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 May 81 p 6

[Commentary by S. Nihal Singh: "Enter Crown Prince Rajiv"]

[Text] Ever since Sanjay died nearly a year ago, there was never any serious doubt about his elder brother Rajiv filling his shoes, his own initial reservations notwithstanding. Those who were rooting for Maneka Gandhi were barking up the wrong tree and fell flat on their faces. Not being in direct line of descent she had no chance of ascending the Gaddi [throne].

Mrs Gandhi has contempt for those who decry dynastic succession. For hadn't she proved in January, 1980 that the hated Sanjay had become acceptable? He won a thumping majority at Amethi and returned to power on his own, and his mother's terms. If democracy and dynastic rule are contradictory precepts, so be it, in Mrs Gandhi's view.

And thus it came about that no sooner was Sanjay's body consigned to the flames, there was a rising crescendo of voices demanding Rajiv's induction into politics. Congress -I legislators, youth congress -I men and sundry other hangers-on passed resolutions, gave petitions and raised slogans for Rajiv. It did not need extraordinary intelligence to discover that the mother wanted it, and in the scheme of Indian politics since 1969, what the mother desired was her followers' dearest wish.

But Rajiv's induction into politics had to be prepared. After the initial slogans which would accustom people's minds to Rajiv Gandhi, MP and prime minister-to-be, there had to be a period of waiting. And both mother and son indulged in a great deal of fencing. The Nehrus, she suggested, had a mind of their own and would not be dragooned. Rajiv said he had not made up his mind, but wanted to help his mother.

And soon Rajiv's mini-secretariat came into being in the prime minister's house, and chief ministers, other Indira congress leaders and senior officials came to see him. For the record, he was screening visitors for his mother; in reality, as Mrs Gandhi's followers knew so well, he was acquiring decision-making powers. But he had not given up his Indian Airlines job and performed his new political chores in between flying stints, which seemed to become less frequent.

Rajiv gingerly tested the political waters by making a foray into Bombay, but even in Delhi, he met farmers' representatives, at their insistent demand, reports said. The impression created was that much against his will, he was being mercilessly sucked into the political arena. Everybody, it seemed, wanted Rajiv, doubtless a matter of much satisfaction to his mother.

These preparations were necessary because Rajiv was new to the game and did not have his late brother's advantages. Sanjay had been steeled by two-and-a-half years of Janata rule. He had commanded a youth brigade fiercely loyal to him and his ruthless personal style of enforcing discipline was known to his friends and enemies alike.

After Mrs Gandhi's return to power in January, 1980 and Sanjay's own induction as a member of parliament, he set about placing men loyal to him in positions of power. Senior civil servants, chief ministers and even the bulk of central cabinet ministers were appointed or transferred with a view to buttressing Sanjay's position. He himself was acquiring more powers and it seemed a matter of time for Mrs Gandhi to withdraw from the political scene and hand over the Gaddi to him.

Fate willed otherwise and Sanjay's untimely death meant that the game plan had gone awry. All those transfers and postings were of no avail; on the contrary, the weak and spineless men appointed for their loyalty to Sanjay were bad administrators and there was no Sanjay to crown.

Many of Sanjay's men were discarded or transferred, both to bring a medicum of efficiency to the government and to prepare for the Rajiv takeover. There is little doubt that many of the appointments and transfers made in recent months had Rajiv's approval, and the elder son has also had a say in placing men in top jobs in public corporations.

Indeed, the Rajiv era had begun even before his long-awaited and expected decision to jump into the political fray by contesting his late brother's seat at Amethi--the by-elections, it seemed, having been suitably postponed to meet his time-table. Characteristically, a Rajiv team took shape at Amethi to promote his election before the official announcement was made in Delhi.

Since Rajiv's election to parliament is a foregone conclusion--after all, going by the hereditary principle so favoured by Mrs Gandhi, the seat belongs to him--where do we go from here? The next move to place Rajiv firmly on the road to power will be made through a cabinet shuffle. Indeed, Mrs Gandhi's difficulties in weeding out dead wood, switching portfolios and inducting new men arise precisely because of her concern for ensuring the new cabinet's loyalty to Rajiv without antagonising too many established leaders.

Mrs Gandhi is shrewd enough to realise that while she can place Rajiv in an unassailable position to succeed her over a period of time, his political fate will ultimately depend upon his ability to wield power. Rajiv is cast

in a very different mould than Sanjay was and is, by all accounts, a more civilised person. The question most often asked is whether he has the steel in him to exercise power ruthlessly. While Rajiv has still to demonstrate his political prowess, it would be a mistake to equate strength with boorishness.

Is it a mere coincidence that while Rajiv's formal induction into politics was being so carefully prepared, reports of a possible merger between the two congress parties were floated by--who else?--Mr A. R. Antulay of press-bashing fame? It would seem that these reports, as also the choice of a congress member to serve as an instrument for annulling the previous Lok Sabha's expulsion of Mrs Gandhi, were promoted to deliver the coup de grace to an organisation full of dissension and self-pity.

Mrs Gandhi hardly needs the services of such congressmen as Mr Jagjivan Ram, Mr Y. B. Chavan and Mr Devaraj Urs. Merger, therefore, cannot be an attractive proposition for her. What she would like to see is the break-up of the congress so that she can prise away some leaders of the ilk of Mr Sharad Pawar, Mr A. K. Antony and Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi.

Such a course of events would serve two very valuable purposes for Mrs Gandhi. It would help her fight the Marxist-dominated coalitions in Kerala and West Bengal more effectively and begin the Rajiv era on a note of reconciliation, with perhaps the induction of men from the other congress in her team at the centre.

There is an element of helplessness as the other parties watch the unfolding of the political drama. Some leaders like Sheikh Abdullah seek to take advantage of the hereditary principle of government Mrs Gandhi favours for their own ends. Others are only too happy to make concessions to the new emerging leader in framing their plans.

Opposition parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party and Janata seem to accept the inevitability of dynastic succession in the present scheme of things. The former in particular is strengthening its base to challenge the Indira congress effectively in the years to come, but can do little to avert a plan hatched by Mrs Gandhi. There are any number of her camp followers who will give a full-throated ovation to the Rajiv era. For them it is axiomatic that the Nehrus will rule India for eternity.

'NATIONAL HERALD' View

BE231710 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 14 May 81 p 7

[Editorial by Hari Jaisingh: 'What to Expect From Rajiv']

[Text] The suspense is over. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has bowed to popular wishes by filing his nomination papers for the by-election to the Lok Sabha from the Amethi constituency. A new chapter has thus just begun in the country's parliamentary democracy.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's entry into politics is significant because his style of functioning is likely to be different from the usual run-of-the-mill approach of other leaders. Though he is contesting from a constituency nursed by his late brother Sanjay, his emergence on the political scene is an event by itself.

Mr. Gandhi has already an image of Mr. Clean which could turn out to be a redeeming feature in Indian politics. The nation badly needs young men and women of character and integrity, and Mr. Gandhi represents a new class of young Indians rooted in the soil, having a modern scientific outlook, with a firm faith in hard work as the answer to the country's manifold ills.

Watching him from the ringside seat it can be safely stated that Mr. Gandhi's charming personality will be an asset in mobilising the masses. He has so far, understandably, shunned publicity. Before finally plunging into politics, he has tried to come to grips with the basic problems facing the nation. For one whole year he has been pressed from all sides to enter politics and yet he has taken his time to decide. This thoughtfulness should be a lesson to young politicians who play politics without delving deep into matters. Viewed in this light, Mr. Gandhi's presence should help young politicians, who badly need to be guided at this critical juncture in the nation's life.

Some persons might raise the usual query of "why Rajiv?" The country has surely no dearth of talent. It has some of the world's brightest young men and women in all walks of life. We have top scientists, technicians and doctors and the nation is really proud of them.

Political leadership is, however, not everybody's cup of tea. It needs proper grooming, a high degree of intelligence, understanding, foresight, leadership qualities and a proper family background. Still in a democracy top positions can be sustained only by dint of one's ability.

After Nehru came Lal Bahadur Shastri for a while. His demise put Mrs Indira Gandhi at the helm. The family background might have given her certain initial advantage but her success is entirely of her own making. She has clicked because of her own dynamism, and not on the basis of borrowed glory.

As a political leader, she represents the people's hopes and aspirations. She has been fighting for something more than the preservation of the Nehru tradition. She is fighting for the uplift of the downtrodden sections of society. Viewed in this light as Andre Malraux once said, she represents "the very delicate link between the age-old thought of India and the modern world."

The Nehrus, as a family, have always been detached from the caste and regional politics of India. Small wonder that any person belonging to this glorious tradition established by the Nehru family acquires an aura about him. But whether he is able to click with the masses or not depends entirely on his own ability and capability to deliver the goods.

Mr. Gandhi might have had certain initial advantages because of his family background, but his potentialities as a youthful leader who understands the nation's problems and ethos are crystal clear. He would probably like to give a new thrust to Indian politics and provide depth to basic political thinking by evolving a new intellectual dynamism--a think tank framework for a powerful, dynamic India.

Indeed, we have to evolve a healthy intellectual culture in the years to come. Intellectual dishonesty has been the bane of Indian politics. Hypocrisy ought to have no place in the new scheme of things. We must revitalise the values of humanism and secularism which were kept alive in the teeth of imperial rule by men like Nehru, Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi. Above all, we must inject civility into our intellectual debate and discussions.

A sensitive and soft-spoken person, Mr Gandhi would probably like to evolve a new intellectual culture that will provide a basic framework to the country's development strategy. He is development-oriented--development that ought be meaningful to the masses. He stands for faster progress. In his scheme of things, there is no premium on inefficiency and any dereliction of duty.

Mr. Gandhi represents a tradition which has been a part of the Indian framework of secularism, democracy and modern scientific outlook. There is nothing rash about him--a plus point which is bound to carry greater conviction among all sections of society.

Mr. Gandhi has a distinct personality and his own work style that is gentle but decisive. He fits in with the sober image of a happy family man who gave up his cushy job in Indian Airlines in the wider national interest. How he acts as a public figure will be watched with great expectations. As it is, he has clicked with the masses even before facing the formal test of the ballot box. Victory should come to him naturally.

Mr. Gandhi has the good wishes of the millions of Indians who not only wish the democratic roots to grow stronger but have equal stakes in the country's political stability so that we could build a strong vibrant India of everyone's dream. India is waiting for a new Rejiv to emerge.

CSO: 4220/291

GANDHI 'INVULNERABILITY', 'INACCESSIBILITY' ALLEGED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Apr 81 p 6

[Article by Girilal Jain]

[Text]

INDIA is not at peace with itself. It cannot be, amidst so much want, injustice and discontent. The anti-reservation agitation in Gujarat, which threatened to polarise the Hindu society as it has not been polarised ever before, is barely over. And the stir over the "foreigners" issue in Assam, only a little less dangerous in its implications, continues even if in a much lower key. Yet there is hardly a debate in the country on public issues of vital interest to the nation.

Above everything else, Mrs. Gandhi's pre-eminence, invulnerability to hostile criticism and inaccessibility to friendly suggestions, it seems to me, account for this amazing phenomenon. Since the political debate in the country has centred on her since 1969 when she split the Congress party and emerged as the dominant figure on the Indian scene, her new status cannot but undermine its very basis.

Her present pre-eminence is obviously not new. It has not been in dispute since the disintegration of the Janata party in the summer of 1979. The poll to the Lok Sabha in January 1980 and to a number of state legislatures in May that year only clinched the issue. Indeed, her invulnerability and inaccessibility are also not new. But they have become obvious only recently. In fact, one has to be sensitive to subtle changes to note this one. Mrs. Gandhi's position has been greatly strengthened in recent months.

FACTORS

Several factors account for this change. Let me first cite those which have made it difficult for her opponents to nurse the hope or

illusion that popular movements outside the framework of the party system would finally overwhelm her. These are: her willingness and capacity to sit through the turmoil in Assam without either surrendering to the impractical and unreasonable demands of the agitators or resorting to the use of excessive force; her resilience and skill in dealing with the farmers' demand for higher prices for their produce, again without either unduly appeasing them or wholly alienating them; and her ambivalent stand on the reservation issue which helped defuse the explosive situation in Gujarat. In all these cases she has shown strong nerves and superb understanding of the problems and skill in handling them.

Her detractors and opponents would not have despaired of making life difficult for her if the rise in prices had not been slowed down mainly by the prospect of an excellent crop. If Mr. Venkataraman had not produced a generally popular budget and if power and coal production had not improved to enable industry to increase production. Her critics are, therefore, left with only two main issues on which they can continue to censure her—corruption in public life and the lacklustre performance of many Union ministers, state chief ministers and ministers.

But corruption has not become the burning issue it was threatening to become once again last year. Mrs. Gandhi has taken some steps to check this menace. But she can at best be said to have achieved limited success. The more important fact seems to be that the people are not so agitated over it.

Perhaps it would have been a different story if the economy had run into serious trouble as it had in 1973-74 when the Naxalite movement took place in Gujarat and Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan sought to replicate it first in Bihar and then in the whole country.

As for the performance of ministers at the Centre and in the states, Mrs. Gandhi's detractors and supporters alike have come to share the despair that she can neither be forced nor persuaded to tackle this problem. Indeed, rumours that continue to circulate in the corridors of power and occasionally find their way into print make it difficult to sustain the belief that she got rid of even Mr. Kamalapati Tripathi and Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla primarily because she was dissatisfied with their performance as Union ministers. Her willingness to tolerate chief ministers who are either not fit to head a decent municipality or district board or tend to be too arbitrary reinforces the same conclusion.

COMPLEX

It can well be argued that Mrs. Gandhi does not have much choice in the matter, the calibre of her partymen being what it is. Indeed, it cannot be seriously denied that the quality of the elected representatives has steadily gone down regardless of party affiliations. This is a complex issue which cannot be discussed properly here. But two points may be made in passing. First, Indian democracy has inevitably lost its elitist character with increasing politicisation of all sections of society. The change in the composition of the Lok Sabha over the years speaks for

Secondly, expanding opportunities for enterprising educated men in commerce, industry and professions have made political career less attractive.

Mrs. Gandhi may also have concluded that it is more important for her right now to create the impression of stability than of performance. In fact, this inference seems unavoidable in view of her refusal to change any chief minister, however worthless. Perhaps the fragile structure of her party restricts her options. But whatever her calculations and compulsions, the fact remains that the people have begun to despair of the possibility that Mrs. Gandhi will give them more competent and honest ministers.

This is a big blow, especially for those who believe that Mrs. Gandhi will see the country through the difficult eighties. Surely the fulfilment of this hope depends as much on Mrs. Gandhi's survival in good health and continuing popularity as on the performance of the team she selects. Indeed, a poor choice of ministers, especially of chief ministers in the states, can in the long run undermine her own credibility. The problem can become serious if the Congress (I) suffers electoral reverses especially in the Hindi-speaking belt, or if prices begin to balloon and shortages develop.

As it happens, the incompetence and lack of integrity of ministers cannot in the present context be covered up with the help of

populist demagoguery. For one thing, having learnt the bitter lesson between 1971 and 1975, Mrs. Gandhi has chosen not to adopt a populist platform. In her present tenure of office she has been emphasising the need for increasing production and promoting science and technology and not distributive justice. She has nationalised some banks but she has not sought to use that to project herself as a radical as she did in 1969. The people have also lost interest in ideology. They want performance. An interesting indication of this fact is that a lot of people have come to favour the appointment as ministers of individuals who have not enjoyed particularly good reputation for probity in the past but are known to have been efficient administrators.

It seems to me that the end of the ideological debate has also helped Mrs. Gandhi. On the face of it, this inference is open to question in view of the fact that in 1969 she overwhelmed her opponents in the Congress on the strength of a leftist platform and won a landslide victory in the mid-term poll to the Lok Sabha in 1971 on the same basis. But a little reflection will reveal the validity of the point I am making.

The intelligentsia has on the whole been critical of her, especially since the proclamation of the emergency in June 1975. The articulate section of the intelligentsia is ideologically oriented, the ideology being leftism of some hue. The end of the ideological debate denotes the decline of this class on the one hand and on the

other the loss of nerve on its part. We are now in the era of political management which is Mrs. Gandhi's forte.

DESPAIR

The decline of ideology has, of course, been accompanied and followed by a preference for results. But it also speaks of widespread sense of despair, a feeling that the problems are too intractable in view of the vastness of the population and scarcity of resources, and that good political management can at best buy us time. Such a feeling inevitably strengthens the *status quo* and promotes self-aggrandisement. Thus our youth has become largely apolitical in the wider sense of the term, though it is prepared to fight for parochial interests as in Assam and Gujarat, and more aggressive in the pursuit of personal objectives.

Finally, it seems to me that President Reagan and President Zia-ul-Haq have come to Mrs. Gandhi's aid in a big way. The former's move to arm Pakistan once again and the latter's determined bid to acquire nuclear weapons have brought into play Mrs. Gandhi's skill in dealing with complex foreign policy issues, rousing nationalist opinion and rallying it behind her. The extraordinarily inept utterances of Mr. Morarji Desai, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other opposition leaders, who are obsessed with the alleged Soviet threat, have greatly facilitated her task of projecting herself as the only Indian leader capable of understanding and coping with the dangers ahead.

MUKHERJEE: NO PLANS TO TOPPLE BENGAL GOVERNMENT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 May 81 p 1

[Text] Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Commerce Minister, said in Calcutta on Sunday that the Centre was not thinking of toppling the West Bengal Government. Addressing a conference of the Central Calcutta District Youth Congress (I), he said that Mrs Gandhi could have dismissed the State Government if she wanted to, the day she came back to power in January, 1980.

He said that the Left Front in West Bengal was crying hoarse over the "conspiracy" by the Centre to topple the State Government to cover its misdeeds. He alleged large-scale manipulation by the CPI(M) of the municipal voters' list.

The Minister said that the polls would be a farce. But the party would take part in the Lok Sabha and Assembly by-elections because the Election Commission could ensure some degree of freedom in these elections.

He alleged that the CPI(M) had paralyzed the State administrative machinery and resorted to "massive oppression of Congress(I) workers". He criticized the CPI(M)'s move to form an "anti-Indira" front with "communal and reactionary" parties like the BJP and the Lok Dal.

Mr Ajit Panja, West Bengal Congress (I) President, warned Youth Congress (I) workers that right reactionaries and Left adventurists had once again joined hands to destabilize the country politically and economically. The leading "capitalist" newspapers were also helping these forces.

Mr Panja claimed that despite occasional differences, the Congress (I) was a united party. The withdrawal of 1,542 party candidates from the civil elections had proved this. He reiterated his charge that the CPI(M) had let loose a reign of terror in West Bengal. He announced that the Congress (I) would observe Sanjay Gandhi's death anniversary on June 23 by donating blood to all blood banks in the State.

Mr Somen Mitra, State Yough Congress (I) president said that although the Congress (I) did not believe in vengeance, it would not tolerate the CPI(M)'s "violence and malicious propaganda" for long. Mr Nurul Islam, a member of the State Congress (I) executive committee, appealed to the party central leadership to take disciplinary action against "dissident" groups within the party.

CSO: 4220/7700

YOUTH CONGRESS-I PLANS, RESOLUTIONS ANNOUNCED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Apr 81 p 7

[Text] The national council of the Youth Cong-I has decided to guard against infiltration of elements from other parties into the organisation.

Youth Cong-I president Ghulam Nabi Azad told newsmen in New Delhi on Wednesday that there had been attempts by people from other organisations to join the Youth Cong-I in big way. As for the Youth Cong-I activists at all levels it would appoint only those who had gone to jail during the Janata rule.

Similarly, only those who had stood by the party during its worse days and those who had not defected could be made office-bearers. He said reorganisation of the Youth Cong-I units at all levels, including the district and block levels, would be completed before Mr Sanjay Gandhi's death anniversary on 23 June.

In a resolution the national council alleged that right reactionaries in collusion with foreign forces hostile to India, were involved in the abortive sabotage of the Air India aircraft. It said this was not an isolated efforts [as published] of a few but part of a pre-planned conspiracy.

Another resolution said that the Bharatiya Janata Party and the RSS were "systematically" discrediting and defaming the Government which had restored the health of the economy. It also blamed the Opposition for preventing the smooth functioning of the Government.

An amendment to the political resolution unanimously adopted, said the repression in West Bengal had reached the point of "wholesale tampering with the electoral machinery, large scale rigging of voter [as published] voters' lists, mass arrests and murder of political opponents".

CSO: 4220/7681

UTTAR PRADESH SIKHS OPPOSE KHALISTAN DEMAND

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 May 81 p 7

[Text] Ghaziabad, May 3 (UNI)—A special convention of Sikhs settled in U.P. was held here today under the auspices of the Uttar Pradesh Sikh Youth Federation to oppose the latest Akali Party resolution demanding Khalistan.

Addressing the convention Minister for Transport Ajit Singh Sethi termed the demand for Khalistan as "harmful and misleading" and called for a virtual "jihad" against the dangerous demand.

He said Sikhs occupied an honourable place in the country and were second to none in their contribution to the cause of the nation.

He invited the people to strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister in the coming bye-elections for maintaining the unity and secular character of the State.

The Minister supported the demand put forward for a Punjabi academy in Uttar Pradesh for the development of the Punjabi language.

Mr Gulab Singh, the president of the City Congress-I, who presided, demanded the inclusion of at least two Sikhs in the Union Cabinet and more recruitment of Sikhs in the services, particularly in the UP Police.

Mr Lakhbir Singh secretary of the UP Pratinidhi Board demanded that land rights should be permanently conferred upon 35,000 Sikh agricultural families settled in the Terai region of the State. [as published]

The convention was attended by representatives from various U.P. districts and organisations like the UP Pratinidhi Board. It unanimously opposed the demand for Khalistan and passed a resolution to this effect.

CSO: 4220/7703

GANDHI VOWS TO MAINTAIN RESERVATION POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 May 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, May 2.

Amidst cheers from 5,000 delegates assembled here for the two-day fifth annual conference of the Akhil Bharatiya Adivasi Vikas Parishad, the prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, declared that the policy of reservation would be followed for as long as it was necessary.

Mrs. Gandhi, who inaugurated the conference, said, however, that reservations could not be implemented for all time to come but they may have to be there for many years.

She hoped that the Adivasis, the Harijans, and the scheduled castes would make rapid progress in the years to come and the policy of reservation would then be no longer necessary.

The prime minister endorsed the view of the Union home minister, Mr. Zail Singh, that the Adivasis and the Harijans should come forward to join the police force. The home minister had suggested this to ensure greater protection and confidence for the Adivasis and weaker sections and said the government was considering steps to strengthen and reorganise the police force to that end, especially the creation of a stronger component of women's police to ensure protection for the Adivasi women.

He hoped that within two years after these steps had been taken, there would be no complaints of exploitation of Adivasi women from any part of the country.

Mrs. Gandhi wanted the Adivasis to be given equal status and opportunity in every walk of life so that they could be drawn into the mainstream of the national life.

She referred to the significant contribution of the Adivasis to the freedom struggle. During the nationalist movement, many of them, particularly in Bihar, had been robbed of their lands by the British. She was sad that over the years, many of them had stayed expropriated because the passage of time had created a lot of problems for them.

She pointed out that as against Rs. 2,000 crores in the fifth plan allocation for schemes of welfare and development of the Adivasis and the backward classes,

there was an allotment of Rs. 4,000 crores in the sixth plan. She wanted those working for the welfare of the Adivasis to ensure that the Girijans got the maximum benefit from the measures for their development.

Mrs. Gandhi wanted the Adivasis, while trying to get their own problems solved, to understand other problems of the country. Separatist attitudes weakened the country and if there was a large number of weaker sections in the country, that too weakened its unity, Mrs. Gandhi said.

She was glad that the Adivasis did not talk of secessionism and did not take to violence although there were others who instigated such attitudes. She regretted that because of violent acts, people abroad had the wrong impression that there was disunity in India and wondered how any progress could be achieved under such circumstances.

Mrs. Gandhi referred to the criticism of India's scientific programmes, like the launching of Rohini, by some who said how could a poor country afford all this and referred to the remark made by an opposition MP who had said, "Would such a rocket feed the poor?" She said scientific and technological progress was also linked to programmes for eradication of poverty. Satellites could provide valuable weather information which could help produce greater yields and more food to the people.

C80: 4220/7695

DELHI CITIZENS RALLY AGAINST RESERVATION SYSTEM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Apr 81 p

[Text] New Delhi, April 28: Several thousand members of the All-India Non-Scheduled Castes, Tribes Employees Confederation today marched to the Boat Club lawns and staged a rally to protest against the caste-based promotional policy of the government.

Shouting slogans and waving placards, the employees of various government as well as public-sector undertakings from all over the country, who called themselves "shoshit" (oppressed), demanded that reserving quotas and out-of-turn promotions to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes employees be scrapped immediately.

They alleged that the reservation policy was discriminatory, as many deserving candidates who were not Scheduled Castes and Tribes were kept lingering. They said that for efficiency, it was imperative that the only consideration for promotions should be competence.

A seven-point memorandum listing their demands was later submitted to the Prime Minister and the President with copies to the minister for home affairs, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the chairman of Parliament petitions committee, and MPs.

Their leaders also paid homage to those who had lost their lives in the recent "Gujarat struggle" for freedom and equality. They said that if the "ill-fated reservation policy was not withdrawn, it would lead to the disintegration of the nation".

CSO: 4220/7677

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK ACCUSED OF BIAS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 May 81 p 8

[Text] The Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings has pulled up the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for its "pronounced regional imbalance" in the assistance rendered, reports UNI.

The committee's latest report, which examines in detail the working of the country's apex financial institution for developmental assistance, regrets that the share of the north eastern region was almost negligible--around one per cent.

On the other hand, two industrially developed States--Maharashtra and Gujarat--accounted for about 32 per cent of the total assistance of Rs. 5,391 crore rendered by the IDBI during the last 16 years.

Of the total sanctions since IDBI's inception, the western region and southern region accounted for 36 per cent and 28 per cent respectively while the share of northern, central and eastern regions was around 12 per cent each.

The western region comprises the industrially developed States of Maharashtra and Gujarat. The share of the southern region was also comparatively high due to the developed State of Tamilnadu and the emerging industrial states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

In the eastern region, with the exception of West Bengal, all the other nine States are industrially underdeveloped.

IDBI, in collaboration with other institutions, has been undertaking promotional measures for accelerating its assistance to the eastern and north eastern regions. These efforts, however, have not yet resulted in substantially stepping up assistance extended mainly owing to the poor infrastructural facilities and lack of entrepreneurship, IDBI says. IDBI's assistance to backward areas mainly flows through project finance and refinance schemes. Since 1981, it has extended an aggregate assistance of Rs 1998.6 crore--44 per cent of its total assistance--to backward areas.

An analysis of IDBI's assistance to backward areas indicates that the top 50 of 247 backward districts assisted by the IDBI accounted for the bulk of the assistance, their share ranging from 69 per cent to 85 per cent. Statewise, top three districts accounted for 60 to 70 per cent of the assistance.

Though the PUC realises that the role of the development banks is somewhat limited, it regrets that the pattern that has emerged shows underdevelopment has been allowed to perpetuate further relative underdevelopment, which, it points out, has serious socio-economic implications.

The position of defaults in repayment by the IDBI assisted units has also caused concern to the committee. The amount of overdues at the end of June, 1980 was of the order of Rs [number illegible] crore. As many as 244 of the 640 companies assisted by the IDBI under the project finance scheme were in arrears to the extent of Rs 82.4 crore, 45 per cent of which was accounted for by eight companies alone.

CSO: 4220/7703

PUBLIC ENTERPRISE WORKERS INCREASE THREEFOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 May 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 2: The work force employed by Central public enterprises increased three-fold during the decade 1970-80, according to a survey of the Bureau of Public Enterprises.

In 1970-71, the work force totalled 6.60 lakhs and in 1979-80 it was 17.55 lakhs.

A noteworthy feature of the decade was the take-over of a number of sick units from the private sector to protect workers from being thrown out of jobs. The number of such workers constitutes almost 48 per cent of the work force in public enterprises.

Since some of the sick units have been modernised and brought back to health, additional employment has also been generated by them.

The survey claims that the public enterprises helped bring about a reduction in income disparities by pushing up the wage levels of low-income groups without a corresponding increase in the emoluments of high-salaried employees.

By March, 1980, 86 enterprises provided housing facilities, though on a limited scale, to their employees. The enterprises have added nearly five lakh housing units in the country, providing shelter to more than 25 lakh people.

In addition, these enterprises spent Rs 100 crores on social services such as education and medical care, the survey notes.

CSO: 4220/7695

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IMPORT ASSURED FOR 1981

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 May 81 p 9

[Text] May 3.

The Centre has entered into agreements for import of crude and petroleum products required for the current year.

Tie-up arrangements have been entered into with the Soviet Union, Kuwait and Bulgaria to meet India's demand for crude as well as petroleum products, Mr. S. Ketharaman, Managing Director, Indian Oil told THE HINDU here on Sunday.

Mr. Ketharaman who was here on a short visit said due to lower consumption in the 21 OECD countries there was a glut of oil in the international markets. India was a force in the spot sales markets of the world.

While there had been a phenomenal growth in demand for high speed diesel oil, the domestic cooking gas (LPG) was in short supply. But in the current year, LPG supplies from Bombay High would improve and the Government had planned to provide as many new connections as possible.

LPG import difficult: It was not easy to import LPG as it required special arrangements and specialised ships for transport. However, the LPG output from Bombay High this year was expected to be around 12,000 to 14,000 tonnes a month and from Mathura Refinery about two lakh tonnes a year, making a total of nearly 3.5 lakh tonnes during 1981-82.

Unfortunately, there was some setback in Bombay High but the situation was expected to improve this month. Even at Mathura there was a slight delay and it might go on stream in October/November this year.

In any case, the IOC was confident of meeting the peoples' requirements of LPG during the current year and next, Mr. Ketharaman said.

The Oil Economy Budget for 1980-81 submitted by the Oil Coordination Committee to the Petroleum Ministry in March, had projected a refining capacity of 30 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). About 28 million tonnes was expected to be losses by refineries.

The indigenous crude production was likely to be around 16.5 MTPA and imports at 14 MTPA. The estimates of product imports planned were: High Speed Diesel oil

(3 million tonnes), superior Kerosene (2 MT) and fuel Oil (1 MT). The forecast has put the demand at 36.5 MTPA.

The official analysis had based the demand on the 1980-81 sales and the projected growth rate for 1981-82. The current demand represented an overall growth rate of ten per cent.

Demand growth comes down: An oil industry spokesman said it was interesting to note that the rate of growth of demand which was 10.7 per cent in 1978-79 came down to 5.7 in the following year and further dropped to 3.1.

The main growth rate was likely in HSD and superior Kerosene Oil. The demand for diesel was expected to increase by ten per cent to 11.4 million tonnes in 1981-82 due to increased industrial activity, drought in several parts of the country, non-availability of coal and power shortage.

As for LPG, he said the supply was almost constant--around four lakh tonnes during the past four years. During the current year, the supply would be increased by 41 per cent to 5.7 lakh tonnes which was the current demand. The recovery of LPG from the associated gas from the Bombay High oil fields would be much more during 1981-82.

Motor spirit: The demand for motor spirit which had grown by 7.8 per cent in 1978-79 over that of the previous year came down in the past two years. In the current year it was likely to rise only by about two per cent.

Similarly, there had been a drop in the growth in demand for naptha [as published] which was expected to increase by 20 per cent to nearly three million tonnes. The growth rate for kerosene was likely to be about eight per cent.

The fuel oil demand had been placed at 7.9 million tonnes based on industry assessment, while for bitumen the figure was 1.3 million tonnes.

The crude supply from Bombay High during the current year was likely to be around 8.4 MTPA and those from the onshore oil fields about 10 MTPA. Four refineries--Bharat Petroleum, Cochin Refinery, and the refineries at Visakhapatnam and Koyali were expected to consume about 7.6 MTPA of Bombay High crude leaving a surplus of eight lakh tonnes.

CSO: 4220/7695

PETROLEUM MINISTER REPORTS PLAN FOR BOMBAY HIGH

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 May 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 4.

The Union petroleum minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, today assured the Lok Sabha that there was no question of sharing Bombay High oil with the French Company, CFP.

Even in the case of 32 blocks being offered to foreign oil companies for exploration, no final decision on production sharing had been taken. If it was decided to share oil, it would be in the range of five to ten per cent and not 50 per cent as suggested by some opposition members.

Replying to the third reading debate on the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (amendment) bill, which was eventually passed by a voice vote, Mr. Sethi regretted that the opposition had not understood the real intention of the measure.

"We are proud of the work of oil exploration and production done by the ONGC," he said. There was, therefore, no question of penalising the ONGC for any difference of opinion with the government.

Mr. Sethi, however, pointed out that the country was paying through the nose for oil imports and it was imperative to increase indigenous production on an urgent basis.

The ONGC's contract with the CFP expired on April 5 and the proposal was to enter into a new agreement. The CFP had suggested sharing of oil even though it was to be notional. However, India told the French company to submit its terms. India also invited bids from other companies.

The ONGC later recommended that it would like to continue its collaboration with the CFP for another four years and the final round of talks on the terms would take place shortly.

Mr. Sethi denied that he was showing any favour to the CFP. The government was not doing anything over the head of the ONGC.

He said that high technology was involved and even Great Britain and Mexico had taken the help of foreign companies. China had practically invited all foreign multinationals for seismographic work.

Replying to the opposition criticism about the power being acquired by the government to dismiss members of the ONGC, Mr. Sethi said: "The bill does not apply to ONGC employees. It concerns only 11 members of the board who have an option of giving three months' notice or termination of service. We are reciprocally arming ourselves with a similar option. This is nothing new. Several other undertakings, including the International Airports Authority, had such option."

Mr. Sethi said the bill had no ill intention and there was no question of the government seeking vengeance on ONGC members.

The bill had come under heavy fire from opposition members, including Mr. Chitta Basu (FB), Mr. Harikesh Bahadur (DSF), Mr. Ramavatar Shastri (CPI) and Mr. Niren Ghosh (CPM).

All of them suggested that the government was trying to acquire "authoritarian powers."

Mr. Chitta Basu feared that the invitation to the CFP would strengthen the stranglehold of foreign multinationals on the Indian economy.

Mr. Harikesh Banadur felt that the bill could become a weapon of exploitation in the government's hands to "murder" the democratic rights of the ONGC staff.

Mr. Ramavatar Shastri thought that the bill constituted a savage attack on the democratic rights of the ONGC employees.

Nr. Niren Ghosh pointed out that the ONGC had developed some expertise and discovered Bombay High on its own. What was then the need to go to a French company for help? He alleged that Mr. Sethi had developed a soft corner for the French.

A member intervened to say: "It is love for Paris."

CSO: 4220/7705

OIL MINISTER: CURBS ON DIESEL SUPPLY REMOVED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Apr 81 p 5

[Text] Restrictions on the movement of diesel have been removed in all the States, reports UNI.

This was disclosed by Petroleum Minister P C Sethi while addressing the consultative committee meeting of his Ministry on Wednesday. [as published]

Mr Sethi said that diesel and kerosene were now easily available. The restrictions on the distribution of diesel had been recently removed by the State Governments.

Mr Sethi said that with the commissioning of the Mathura refinery this year and the expansion of processing facilities at the existing refineries over the next four years, there would be substantial increase in the indigenous production of kerosene in future. Imports to that extent would be reduced, he said.

He said that currently the total allocation of kerosene to the States was to the order of 4.15 million tonnes and as much as 2.1 million tonnes of kerosene had to be imported to meet their requirements.

Mr Sethi said the Union Government had accepted the recommendations of site selection committee in this respect and, accordingly, a gas-cracker plant would be set-up at Usar in Maharashtra. Another gas-cracker plant would be set-up at Kavan in Gujarat, he said.

The Minister said the Government had also accepted the recommendation that a large petro-chemicals project could also be erected in Bihar. Major downstream units with investment of over Rs 50 crores were also contemplated to be set up in Madhya Pradesh.

Fertiliser Units

Regarding Centre's participation in the Haldia complex, the Minister said that the West Bengal Government had now suggested equity participation by the Central Government or public sector undertakings under the Centre.

Similarly, Union Government may also participate in the petro-chemical complex proposed by the Gujarat Government, he added.

Regarding the setting up of new fertiliser units, Mr Sethi said that two considerations in this regard were availability of feedstock and bringing fertiliser units closer to deficit areas, the Government's policy was that in view of the abundant availability of natural gas, new fertiliser plants would be based on gas. [as published] Naphtha would be used as feedstock for fertiliser production only where it was in surplus at inland locations.

He said that the proposed 20,000 tonnes-paraffin wax plant at the Madras refinery was expected to be completed by 1983. In addition, the Indian Oil Corporation had planned to produce paraffin wax at Barauni refinery which may take about three years to materialise.

Mr Sethi disclosed that Government had planned to have captive power facilities for the Barauni factory. A 2.5 MW gas-turbine unit was expected to be installed by March 1982.

CSO: 4220/7681

LOK SABHA ORGAN WANTS WHITE PAPER ON POWER POLICY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Apr 81 p 5

[Text] The Estimates Committee has rapped the Government for not having come out so far with a white paper on power policy as recommended by it in 1977-78, Reports UNI.

In its thirteenth report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday the committee has asked the Government to formulate a national policy on power without any further delay clearly indicating its long-term projections for power development, share of different sources of power generation (like hydel, thermal and nuclear) and the roles of Central and State governments in power generation and distribution.

The committee wants power projects to be planned on the basis of a perspective of 15-20 years.

It is unhappy that investment planning for the power sector is still being done by the Planning Commission in five-year cycles.

The committee feels that if the new strategy of long-term power perspective has to succeed, it is absolutely necessary to tie up the 15-year power plan not only with a 15-year investment planning but also with long-term planning in general and development of all other inputs like coal, steel, cement, equipment and transport availability.

The committee has given figures to show that in all the five year Plans, there have been heavy shortfalls in achievements of planned targets of capacity additions.

This fact compounded by low capacity utilisation has led to the present chronic power shortage situation in the country affecting production in all sectors of the economy.

The committee has stated that if the target of capacity addition of 20,000 mw during the Sixth Plan is to be achieved, the Government would have to take more effective measures than in the past.

The committee does not agree with a view often expressed that the entire generation and transmission should be taken over by the Centre.

The Central share in power generation should increase substantially--but certainly not by acquiring any existing power stations run by the States, it says.

The committee, however, wants the Centre to take under its ownership and control all inter-state and inter-regional high tension transmission lines together with their sub-stations.

The committee has recommended that captive power plants in private sector should be allowed to be set up by the Government liberally.

The Government may also view sympathetically any proposal for setting up power plants on cooperative basis which might serve a cluster of industries situated in a compact area.

The committee has regretted that because of lack of coordination between coal producers and railways, power generation has been suffering. It hopes that the railways would be able to reach the target of 4,100 wagons per day for the thermal power stations at the earliest.

The committee, however, feels that alternative means of transport of coal would have to be found out before long if power and other key sectors of economy depending upon coal have to be insured against vagaries of rail transportation.

It wants the Government to give greater attention to the development of nuclear power stations.

CSO: 4220/7681

SOLAR HEATING SYSTEM IN RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 May 81 p 16

[Text] Ahmedabad, May 3.

A demonstration solar hot water system, with a capacity of 6,000 litres a day, was commissioned here by Mr. Maheshwar Dayal, Secretary to the Commission for Additional Sources of Energy and Adviser to the Department of Science and Technology.

The solar hot water system has been installed by the Department of Science and Technology in a textile mill run by the National Textile Corporation.

The project has been implemented by the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar.

The system consists of an array of 92 flat plate solar collectors which capture the solar radiation and heat the water that circulates through them.

The system is thermostatically controlled, so that water at about 80 degrees Centigrade is delivered into an insulated storage tank. This meets 15 per cent of the requirement of hot water for the soaping process.

It is claimed to be the first solar hot water system in the country to be installed on the corrugated cement sheets of a sloping roof, typical of textile mills.

Energy Harnessed

The demonstration installation harness daily 0.3 million kilo-calories solar radiation. The system is proposed to be expanded to provide also hot air and low pressure steam, required for other processes in the mill.

The demonstration system has been installed as part of the widespread renewable energy demonstration programme initiated by the Department of Science and Technology to promote the application of renewable energy technologies, developed in India.

The demonstration units will give data and information on these systems in actual field conditions and assist in further improvement and commercialisation of the technology.

Mr. Dayal said it seemed possible now to provide energy to a certain extent in the household, agricultural and industrial sectors, based on modern renewable energy sources.

Mr. Dayal said a substantial portion of the conventional energy was used in applications below 200 degrees Centigrade in industry. Twenty per cent coal, 10 per cent oil, 60 per cent gas and seven per cent electricity were used in such applications.

Industries, such as textiles and fibres, ceramics and glass chemicals and alloys and sugar, which largely needed energy at low and medium temperatures, accounted for 25 per cent of the annual fuel oil consumption.

At the present rate of manufacture, the total energy consumption of the textile industry in India worked out to about 25.8 million tonnes of steam or 4.3 million tonnes of coal per annum, Mr. Dayal said.--PTI.

CS01 4220/7701

RECORD GROWTH IN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 May 81 p 8

[Text] The annual growth rate of the electronics industry during 1980 was 24.7 per cent--the highest in the last decade. The growth rate of 1979 was only 9.5 per cent.

Electronics production in 1980 was valued at Rs 8060 million compared to Rs 6465 million in 1979 and Rs 5905 million in 1978, according to the annual report of the department of electronics presented to Parliament, reports UNI.

The Sixth Plan envisages a growth rate of 23 per cent for the electronics industry compared with 15.5 per cent achieved during the last five years. The emphasis during the current plan period would be on export promotion, import substitution, large volume production of components and development of specialised manpower required for the industry.

The computer industry would also receive special attention for which a growth rate of 40 per cent is targeted, says the report.

An outlay of Rs 1412.3 million has been approved for the department of electronics during the plan, of which Rs 1094.6 million have been earmarked for ongoing scheme and Rs 317.6 million for initiating new schemes.

The electronic equipment sector has shown a substantial improvement during 1980 where the growth achieved was 25.6 per cent compared with seven per cent in the previous year, the report says.

The production of consumer electronic items during the year under review was Rs 2,140 million compared with Rs 1,790 million during 1979. The electronic components production was Rs 1630 million which is 19.9 per cent higher than the production achieved in 1979.

The production of components in the organised sector during the year was worth Rs 1,010 million.

The small scale sector has contributed significantly in the production of items like TV tuners, and TV deflection components and achieved a production valued at Rs 450 million.

An important feature of the growth in this sector has been an increase in radio receiver production from 5.13 million numbers in 1979 to 5.81 million in 1980.

TV production increased by 19 per cent and the share of small scale sector in the total production was 76 per cent. The production of tape recorders registered a significant growth of 69 per cent during this year representing a 20 per cent increase in the production in the organised sector and even 100 per cent in the small scale sector. The other consumer electronic products like record players, however, registered an annual growth of 10 per cent only.

CSO: 4220/7703

BRIEFS

GANDHI MAY DAY MESSAGE--New Delhi, May 1. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has in a message on the occasion of May Day said: "Through the labour of their hands the worker in the field and the worker in the factory create the nation's wealth. Industrial workers have always been in the vanguard of change. Today when we are on the threshold of a new phase of national development much depends on the worker's readiness to place the country above group and to consider the welfare of others to be as important as their own. This is true of every citizen but workers have the advantage of being organised and therefore more is expected from them."--UNI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 2 May 81 p 9]

BJP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE--New Delhi, May 3. The Bharatiya Janata Party President, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, set up the party's Parliamentary Board and the Executive Committee on Saturday. He was given this authority at the recent National Council meeting at Cochin. As party chief, Mr. Vajpayee heads both the bodies. The Parliamentary Board includes Mrs. Vijaya Raje Scindia, Mr. K. S. Hegde, Mr. Sunder Singh Bhandari, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, Mr. Jagannath Rao Joshi, Mr. L. K. Advani and Mr. Sikander Bakht. The new Board will meet here on May 8. The 17-member Executive consists of Mrs. Raje Scindia, Mr. Hegde, Mr. Bhandari, Mr. Jethmalani, Mr. Joshi, Mr. Advani, Mr. Y. D. Sharma, Mr. Jana Krishnamoorthy, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Mr. Krishan Lal Sharma, Mr. K. S. Thakre, Mr. Suraj Bhan, Mr. Arif Beg, Mrs. Mohinder Kaur, Mr. Jagdambi Prasad Yadav and Mr. Sikander Bakht, besides Mr. Vajpayee. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 4 May 81 p 9]

DUTY ON STEEL--New Delhi, April 28 (PTI): Changes in customs duty on some iron and steel items, effective from today, were announced by the finance ministry this evening. The changes have been made keeping in view the general trend in the international prices of these items. The basic customs duty on billet, blooms, ingots and bars and rods, excepting hollow mining drill steel, has been raised from 30 to 40 per cent ad valorem. The basic customs duty on alloy steel, excluding stainless steel, and high carbon steel in form of billets, blooms, ingots, bar and rods, has been raised from 35 to 45 per cent ad valorem. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Apr 81 p 1]

PRICE INDEX COMMITTEE--New Delhi, April 30. A committee has been appointed to go into the question of preparation of a new series of consumer price index numbers compiled by the Labour Bureau, with 1980-81 as the base year, and to suggest how the new series may be compiled especially in the light of the shifts in the consumption pattern of the industrial workers, the Rajya Sabha was informed today.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 1 May 81 p 7]

LAND DISTRIBUTION--New Delhi, April 30. The programme of taking possession and distribution of surplus lands would be completed by 1982-83, the Planning Minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari told the Rajya Sabha at question-time today. The Minister said that the Sixth Plan (1980-85) provided for effective and vigorous implementation of the various elements of the nationally accepted land reforms policy on a time-bound schedule. He said 15.40 lakh hectares had been declared surplus, of which 10.40 lakh hectares had been taken possession of and over seven lakh hectares distributed to the landless.--PTI. [Excerpt] [Madras THE HINDU in English 1 May 81 p 7]

NEW DISTRICT FORMED--Ratnagiri, May 4 (UNI): The newly-formed south Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra's Konkan region will be known as Sindhudurga from tomorrow, "Shiv Jayanti" day, the chief minister, Mr. A. R. Antulay, announced today. Formally inaugurating the district, Mr. Antulay denied the allegation that the decision to set it up was politically motivated. It was aimed at ensuring rapid development of the area, he said. The state revenue minister, Mrs. Shalinitai Patil, presided. Earlier, he inaugurated the Sakhartar creek bridge on the coastal highway near here. The bridge constructed at a cost of Rs. 56.1 lakhs, links over 30 villages with a population of about 40,000 to Ratnagiri. The new district has a total population of about 778,000 and consists of six talukas from Kaskavali to Savantwadi and 37 villages of Vaibhavawadi taluka of Kolhapur district. It is 288 km. in length and 64 km. in breadth, covering a total area of about 1,427 square km. The popular language of the district is a mixture of Marathi and Konkani. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 May 81 p 6]

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISLAND--Panaji, May 4 (UNI): The Goa government will hand over to the defence ministry the tiny island of Anje Diva near Karwar, for its use. The island which forms part of the Goa territory has forest produce and is at present used by fishermen as a landing base and allegedly by the liquor smugglers transporting liquor into Karnataka. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 May 81 p 6]

AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN--New Delhi, May 4 (PTI): Mr. Prem Singh, at present acting high commissioner of India to Mauritius, has been appointed ambassador to Bahrain in succession to Mr. Haririshnan Mahajan. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly, according to an official release. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 May 81 p 9]

DEFENSE ELECTRONICS UNIT--May 3. An electronic components manufacturing industry for defence requirements, will be set up in the city by the Tamil Nadu Government. The Central Government has given its approval to the project, for which a 50-acre plot of land has been allotted in Adyar. The Centre has also given its approval for a rocket fuel testing centre in Mahendragiri forest in Kanyakumari district. It will come up on a 4000-acre site. The Industries Minister, Mr. S. Thirunavukkarasu gave this information while presiding over the valedictory function of the 27th Handloom Fair here on Sunday. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 4 May 81 p 1]

TRIPURA FOOD CRISIS--Agartala, May 3. Tripura faces a critical food situation, with stocks in Government godowns reduced to the lowest level. Fair price shops which serve about 21-lakh people are not getting their monthly requirement of 7,000 tonnes of rice and 1,000 tonnes of wheat. The State Chief Minister, Mr. Bipen Chakraborty, in a telegram to Mr. Samar Mukherjee, leader of the CPI(M) Parliamentary Group, has urged him to meet the Union Food Minister and press for the immediate despatch of grain to tide over the worst crisis confronting the State. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 4 May 81 p 6]

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MAURITIUS--Dr Bhagwat Saran Upadhyaya has been appointed high commissioner of India to Mauritius in succession to Dr Kailash Chandra. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. [Text] [BK060605 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1502 GMT 2 May 81]

AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA--Arjun Gobindram Asrani, presently joint secretary in the Ministry of Finance, has been appointed ambassador of India to Libya in succession to Narendra Singh. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. [Text] [BK070229 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1627 GMT 6 May 81]

CONTRACT WITH AFGHANISTAN--The Water and Power Consultancy Services India Limited (WAPCOS), a public undertaking under the Union Ministry of Irrigation, has signed a contract with Helmand Construction Corporation, an Afghan Government undertaking, to provide technical services for various water resources development projects. The contract was recently signed by A.K. Pal, chief engineer of WAPCOS, and Aqa Mohammed, president of Helmand Construction Corporation in Kabul. His Excellency Doctor Raz Mohammed, minister of water and power, Afghanistan, was also present on the occasion. Under the contract, valued at U.S. \$500,000, WAPCOS will depute technical experts in various fields of construction engineering to offer consultancy services and to train Afghan personnel. The contract will cover a period of 2 years. [Text] [BK070229 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1607 GMT 6 May 81]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES--India's foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold and SDR's) of rupees 48,221.2 million in early April 1981 came down by rupees 1,673.6 million to rupees 46,547.6 million by 24 April 1981, S.S. Sisodia, minister of state of finance, told the Rajya Sabha on 5 May. The changes in foreign exchange reserves are the net outcome of India's transactions with other countries, details of which would become available only with the compilation of the balance of payments statistics by the Reserve Bank of India, he told S.S. Bagaitkar and Ladli Mohan Nigam in a written reply. [BK070229 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0838 GMT 6 May 81]

CSIR DIRECTOR GENERAL--Chairman of the National Research Development Corporation Dr H.S. Sahu, has been appointed Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary in the Department of Science and Technology for CSIR affairs. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Apr 81 p 5]

DIESEL FROM COAL--Synthetic diesel oil produced from coal by the Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI) in Dhanbad has been successfully tested to run a vehicle, reports PTL. The vehicle ran at an average speed of 40 kmp and the engine performed satisfactorily, according to National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) which financed the CFRI project on coal-to-diesel. CFRI's coal-to-oil pilot plant produced the crude oil from which the diesel oil fraction was obtained. The diesel oil satisfied the specifications of the Indian Standards Institution, NRDC said. Sample coal of the Raniganj field was used as feed material for the CFRI pilot plant. The pilot plant data indicate that 35 tonnes of high speed diesel and 12 tonnes of naphtha can be obtained from 100 tonnes of coal. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Apr 81 p 5]

CPI LEADER NAIR--Trivandrum, April 20 (UNI)--CPI leader and former Kerala Minister M.A. Govindam Nair today denied press reports that he was joining the "Dange party". In a statement here he said since the last Parliament election he had never compromised on his attack on the political line of Mr Dange and his (Mr Dange's) "breach" of the party's principles. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Apr 81 p 7]

SOLAR ENERGY PLAN--Bangalore, May 3 (UNI)--A Rs 12 crore project has been drawn up to establish pilot plant facilities under the Central Electronics Limited (CEL) to generate one mw a year through solar energy in five years, according to the annual report of the department of science and technology of the Union Government. The project is to cover large scale application of photovoltaic systems in rural areas with emphasis on water pumping. Planning for larger commercial scale plants had also been initiated. The department had continued its efforts to evolve cost-effective designs of wind mills for various applications. Following the development of a horizontal axis sail-type wind mill, work has been initiated for installation of ten prototypes at selected locations. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 May 81 p 4]

CSO: 4220/7702/7704

CORRESPONDENT TALKS WITH PRK OFFICIALS

Paris LE MONDE in French 14, 15, 16 May 81

[Articles by Jacques De Barrin--passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[14 May 81 p 7]

[Text] Phnom Penh--Even during the dry season that just ended, the ricefields were starting to grow green again. For some peasants this year there will be two harvests from the paddies. The Kampuchean countryside is no longer inert and silent. The specter of famine is distant, but still too close to be forgotten.

According to the latest estimates of the FAO, the rice harvest for the 1980-81 season will be more than twice as large as last year's, or 700,000 tons, while in normal times it should reach 1 million tons. Based on a subsistence ration of 400 grams per person per day and a population of around 6 million inhabitants, experts have figured the shortage at some 200,000 tons, the need for which will be most keenly felt between August and October of this year.

The specialized organizations of the United Nations had planned on supplying about 110,000 tons of rice; the Soviet Union, for its part, should be supplying 90,000. Desperately battling its own problems, Vietnam this year reneged. Most urgently needed is 30,000 tons of seed to be put at the disposal of the Kampuchean farmers between now and the beginning of summer. If the deadlines are met, some technicians do not dismiss the possibility that Kampuchea could in 1982 reach food self-sufficiency.

Now is it really possible to go that quickly? /"Next year we will only be able to increase the cultivated area by 10 percent because of the lack of fertilizers, insecticides, fuel, trail animals, tractors, and field agents,"/ says Mr Kong Sam Ol, vice minister of agriculture. To tell the truth, the situation is quite different from one region to the next. If the Provinces of Battambang and Kompong-Thom could be described today as self-sufficient, those of Svay-Rieng and Takeo are by contrast facing a serious shortfall.

There are also unforeseen problems which complicate the job of the "peasant with his bare hands." Last summer, in the southern part of the country, serious floods damaged the harvest. The fallow land attracts legions of rats, whose ravages the farmers are powerless to fight. Up to 80 percent of the cattle in the country are stricken by an epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease, which is difficult to halt because of the absence of a systematic vaccination campaign. As for fishing, performance has been more disappointing: around 10,000 tons of fish for the entire 1980 season, compared to the 50,000 in 1970. The clearing of the trees all along the

rivers, and the diversion of watercourses under the Khmer Rouge regime have disturbed aquatic life. The lack of boats, of nets, and the inexperience of the new professional fishermen make the prospect of miraculous hauls still far off.

The new take-off of agriculture is so slow and fragile that, for the moment, the Kampuchean authorities are restraining themselves from larding their remarks with too many ideological considerations. /"Everything is new; we must start from square one. We do not even have statistics,"/ says Mr Kong Sam Ol, who sees the creation of cooperatives coming /"much later on."/ In his opinion, the peasants still have some bad memories about them. /"At the time of Sihanouk and Lon Nol, the cooperative presidents were corrupt,"/ he explains. /"At the time of Pol Pot, the cooperatives had their harvests confiscated."/

Almost all farmers today are members of so-called security groups called "Samaki groups." There are about 100,000 of them, each one of them comprised of 10 to 15 families. This formula of mutual assistance, accords with the wishes of the peasants, who, stripped of everything, feel keenly the necessity to lend each other a helping hand.

The hope of the government is to persuade the Samaki groups to unite at the village level to pull together the resources to buy a motor pump, a tractor.... Furnished with such equipment, they will have more prestige when they come to hold discussions with the state. /"We will then have to deal with real interlocutors,"/ observes the vice minister of agriculture.

All the collective lands have been distributed to Samaki groups which, with respect to the state, have no other obligation than to farm them. Last year, fertilizer and seed were given them free of charge; they were also able to use tractors without going out of pocket. Henceforth it will be cash only. /"In the rainy season, the peasants will have to reimburse us in rice for the products we are supplying them,"/ warns Mr Kong Sam Ol. Also, agricultural machinery will be tied to their participation in hydraulic works.

In the 1980-81 season, for the second time in a row, no taxes were levied on the rice harvest. /"We will see about next year,"/ the authorities are content to say. The latter have among other things made use of international assistance to feed the state workers, thereby leaving the Samaki groups in full proprietorship over what they produce.

Last season, the state's goal was to buy 175,000 tons of rice, among other things to distribute in the provinces that do not produce enough food. For the time being, they have been able to procure only 100,000 tons, most often by means of barter. In this way the peasants are offered the opportunity to purchase fuel, fabric, saucepans; the trade being made on the basis of a price which varies from region to region between 0.65 and 0.90 riels per kilo, lower by half than the open market.* All the same, Kampuchean officials do not envisage creating a state market before the end of 1983, when, they say, /"we will have revolutionary cadres and merchandise to sell."/

/"Our concern is first of all to restore the standard of living,"/ insist the authorities. /"Today, the free market is working to our advantage."/ Thus, everyone scrambles about as best he can to improve his living standard. Rice and fish take a big bite out of the 80 to 100 riels per month salary of the average state

* At the official rate, \$1 - 4 riels.

worker. Under these conditions, how else than by /"trafficking"/ could he buy a bicycle (1,200 to 2,700 riels depending on the model), a pair of rubber sandals (30 riels) or quite simply a pack of Thai cigarettes (12 riels)?

Trade with Thailand has never been better. To be convinced of this it is enough to watch the arrival of the train from Battambang at the Phnom Penh train station. It is overflowing with diverse merchandise--cloth, clothing, radios, iceboxes--that can be purchased with either gold or dollars. A multitude of "ferryman" take them from the Thai border to the capital. A gauntlet packed with ambushes. They must, in effect, avoid the traps that racketeers of all types set for them. At the very least, they are obliged to pay their tithe to the Vietnamese soldiers. When all is said and done, the fraud serves the interests of everyone. /"We let it go on to console the people,"/ admits one official.

How long will it be necessary to /"console"/ the people? The \$273 million spent by the specialized agencies of the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Kampuchea from October 1979 to December 1980 succeeded in warding off the immediate threat of famine. But it is one thing to keep a country from dying, and another to help it to come back to life.

Now that the food situation in Kampuchea seems to be normalized, the international community considers it has done its humanitarian duty. Many donor countries are reluctant today to participate in the reconstruction of the country, for fear of endorsing a government whose legitimacy is not recognized by the UN. Some are thus trying to establish subtle /"distinctions"/ between humanitarian aid and development programs.

But these analyses cannot continue indefinitely to withstand the economic realities. Of what use is it, really, to give bags of rice if they cannot get to their destination in time because there are no trucks to transport them safely, because they are immobilized for lack of fuel, spare parts, or negotiable roads.... However that may be, Kampuchea, which recently was the beneficiary of extraordinary assistance from the international community as it was trying to get its breath back, now may find itself alone somewhat as it tries to wage the real fight, the one for development.

[15 May 81 p 9]

[Text] Kampuchea is no longer threatened with famine, but the food situation remains precarious; the country will not produce enough rice this year. (LE MONDE of 14 May).

Phnom Penh--Bikes and motor scooters hold the first rank. Pedicabs have gone back into service. Streetcorner cooks and itinerant peddlers clutter the sidewalks. Right on the street, mobile teams are vaccinating passersby against cholera. In the midst of its rubble, Phnom Penh still has a zest for life.

Today the city must have at least 400,000 inhabitants; its population has tripled within a year. Most of them are peasants who between tilling time and harvest come on the off chance of finding some extra income here. These ersatz townsmen camp out--some in the gutted boutiques, some in tumbledown tenements. The authorities are anxious to /"send back to the countryside those thousands of idlers and control their movements."/

To do the job right, you would have to close down Phnom Penh "for repairs." The city is so badly bruised that it is hard to see how its wounds can heal anytime soon. Only 40 percent of the buildings can be restored. The sewage system is no longer running: two out of the six pumping stations are operable. The need for drinking water is estimated at 70,000 cubic meters per day, but it is impossible to provide more than 45,000 cubic meters. Filth accumulates in the streets and blocks some of them. The municipality, which only has four dump trucks, cannot even collect half of it on a daily basis. The rats are having a field day...

One would have to repair the embankments that protect the city, lay out afresh the public parks, recreate a system of mass transportation. For the moment, the town councillors are trying to attend to the most urgent matters. The central market is being renewed, the streets are being paved, the street lights are being set upright again. "We must get revenue, and to do that we must revive trade and cottage industries, for the inhabitants do not have the means to pay taxes," explains Mr Chan Yen, president of the people's revolutionary committee of Phnom Penh and minister of national education.

From one end of the country to the other, the situation is just as precarious. International assistance has in fact made possible a significant improvement in the health situation of the population. Except in a few distant provinces, cases of malnutrition are in very noticeable decline. Thus, at 7 January Hospital in Phnom Penh, the mortality rate has dropped to 5 percent from the 19 percent figure in March 1979. "We now must deal with the problem of ignorance of nutritional requirements," say the specialists.

Drawing its own conclusions from this state of affairs, the ICRC has plans to withdraw its medical teams—who are working in four provincial hospitals—on 30 June, and stop the supply of medications on 30 September. "The phase of acute emergency at the war's end is over," say ICRC officials. "That of reconstruction, which is now beginning, is no longer our responsibility." Kampuchean authorities must thus negotiate bilateral health accords.

The country is not able, in fact, to do without foreign aid. Even its best efforts are not sufficient to meet its needs. Before the Khmer Rouge came to power, 500 doctors practiced in Kampuchea; now there are no more than 50, including one surgeon and one pediatrician. The Province of Prey-Veng with 700,000 inhabitants has only a single doctor in practice. The medical and pharmacological school in Phnom Penh—the only institution of higher education in the country—is now training students who, because of unfolding events, had to interrupt their schooling in the 5th or 6th year. The 2d class, which has just graduated, numbered 25 graduates. "Our objective is next year to have one doctor, one surgeon, and one pharmacist in place in every province," indicates Mr Nuth Savoen, vice minister for health. The urgency is such that in the provinces the theoretical and practical training of nursing personnel does not last longer than 3 months. It is impossible to have the luxury of complete training. One learns by doing....

Everything Must Be Reinvented

And what can be said of the hospital equipment? No running water in the Kompong-Tham hospital: the only supply post—outside the building—is open only 4 hours a day; no ambulance; the sick must be moved by boat, by truck, or on oxcart. No kitchen in the Takeo hospital: a tent planted in the courtyard takes its place.

The Khmer Rouge crippled health as well as education. /"It was a utopia. There is no progress without intellectuals,"/ Mr. Chan Ven observes. /"If we want to create a revolutionary intellect, we must upgrade the education of the people."/

Everything must be reinvented. Kampuchea is starting from scratch. One and three-tenths million children are in "primary" school (900,000 last year), or nearly three-fourths of the school-age population; 68 percent are in first grade. "Secondary" students are few in number--only 7,000--the ranks in "high school" are paper-thin: 700 students.

The government has given itself 3 years in which to teach men under 45 and women under age 40 to read. Some 25,000 cadres out of the 100,000 the country has are participating in adult education outside their normal work hours. /"The principle is simple,"/ explains the minister of education. /"The better educated teach the less educated and the less educated teach the illiterate."/

No matter the quality of the teachers trained "on the double," the absence of books, textbooks, the lack of sites, desks and blackboards, notebooks and pencils, the important thing is to "start up the machine." It is not rare, in fact, to see children sitting even on the ground in classrooms without furniture, or teachers giving instruction in the open air, in the shade of a mango tree.

Pressed for time, Kampuchea is also pressed to rebuild its economy. The authorities are trying to reconstitute a web of small- and medium-sized enterprises: agricultural tools, building materials, household articles. A laborious task in the absence of electricity, fuel, raw materials.... Ten years ago, the Kompong-Cham textile factory given by China was running nonstop and produced 180,000 meters of cloth per day; today, only 7,000 meters. /"We lack dyes, rollers, drive-belts,"/ says one official. /"We have exhausted our stores of cotton. We cannot work with the local cotton for lack of cleaning machines, so 140 machines are taking a foreign trip."/

Kampuchea is looking for partners. Eastward-looking partners, by the nature of things. /"With the Soviet Union, we have concluded many accords but we have not signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation like Vietnam did,"/ notes Mr. Hun Sen, minister of foreign affairs. /"We are in the process of considering possible admission to CEMA, but we also want the capitalist countries to help in the reconstruction of the country."/

Despite everything, the Kampucheans are trying not to lose hope. The families the previous regime dislocated (there are at least 75,000 orphans) are beginning to come back together. Marriages are on the increase. A demographic explosion--a sort of "baby boom"--has been noted for close to a year.

Human problems do not seem to stand in the way of the returning wave of Kampuchean refugees from neighboring countries. There are some 320,000 of them who, through the assistance of the UNHCR [UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees] have come back to their villages. There remain 137,000 in Thailand, 35,000 in Vietnam, and 10,000 in Laos. The UNHCR is trying to work out an agreement with Phnom Penh to accelerate voluntary repatriations. The authorities look skeptically on these operations, fearing that among the flood of refugees elements hostile to the regime are slipping in. On the other hand, without too many illusions, they are trying--as the Khmer Rouge 40 their time had tried--to extend the hand of friendship to

their overseas compatriots living for instance in the United States or France. But will these people want to work for a country which, it is said, is no longer completely in charge of its own destiny?

[16 May 81 p 9]

[Text] The reconstruction of Kampuchea has begun. A time-consuming and difficult project, for it must start from scratch.
(LE MONDE of 14 and 15 May 1981.)

Phnom Penh--It is not easy to hitchhike in Kampuchea if one happens to be a Vietnamese soldier! Even if one looks friendly, relaxed, and has a smile on one's lips. The country folk are not adverse, when the occasion presents itself, to let their "liberators" know that their presence is only endured as a last resort.

In the past, Kampuchea and Vietnam never stopped quarreling and bickering. Fear of the Khmer Rouge today obliges the populace to contain its rancor in silence. Anything rather than Pol Pot.

The Kampucheans do not believe at all that the Vietnamese troops are close to packing their bags. But what else can one do? After the years of tribulations, the population seems apathetic, ready to let itself be carried along by events. /"Since you are destined to be devoured by a tiger,"/ says a local proverb, /"you do not even have to go into the forest."/

The ideology to which the government is trying to convert the populace remains foreign to the majority. Here communism and socialism are words that inspire fear, that bring trouble. The authorities recognize that they are facing serious problems getting their message transmitted. However, /"for more than 2 years now since we came to power the inhabitants have been able to compare our regime with that of the Khmer Rouge,"/ says Mr Keo Chanda, minister of culture and information.

All the same, the Pol Potists did not just come from out of the blue one fine day. /"Who put their feet in the stirrups?"/ ask the Kampucheans, /"if it was not the Vietnamese, who fought alongside them from 1970 to 1973."/ And to conclude: /"Those who set the fire then turned up to put it out."/ But the damage was done.

To escape from nearly 4 years of nightmarish conditions, the people wanted peace, and they would have liked to design it themselves. The reality is rather disappointing. /"We have been delivered from a regime of terror. Today, we are on the road to a society of coercion,"/ observes one Phnom Penh inhabitant. /"It is progress, but we deserve better."/

The feelings of hostility and above all indifference which a large part of the population evidence toward the regime are not weakening the resolve of its rulers to lead the country gradually toward "pure socialism," as stated in the preamble of the new Constitution. Might one expect that, given the recent history of Kampuchea, it will take a long time to forge the society of tomorrow? /"Not at all,"/ says Mr Keo Chanda. /"Where the fire has passed the grass grows quickly back."/

Toward an Officialization of the Party

The training of political cadres has begun, notably at Phnom Penh's Ecole Politique Centrale. The first class, consisting of about 100 teachers of Marxism-Leninism, will graduate in 2 years. /"We have put propaganda teams in place even in the villages,"/ says the minister of culture.

The authorities are wondering about the expediency of making official the Communist Party. Would this move be premature, or not? The debate is under way in the ruling class. /"After the legislative elections,* we will hold a Communist Party congress,"/ we are assured by Mr Keo Chanda. /"This latter will then become autonomous and will withdraw from the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK)."/

The existence of this front illustrates the heterogeneous composition of the ruling team, of the political players in general. In the absence of cadres, it was at first necessary to accept the service of all "people of good will" without looking too deeply into anyone's past. Former fellow travelers of Prince Sihanouk or Marshal Lon Nol, last-minute converts from the Khmer Rouge, "government agents" from Hanoi, succeeded in coexisting despite the inevitable clashes of clans.

Putting in place new institutions will make it possible to assess more accurately the weight of each of these clans. It is already clear, in the eyes of many observers, that the "Hanoi group" led by Mr Pen Sovan, the vice president of the People's Revolutionary Council, minister of national defense, commander in chief of the army and secretary general of the party, has the real power. A sign? Several months ago, the portrait of Mr Heng Samrin, the head of the regime, a former Khmer Rouge, hung by itself on the walls of official buildings. Today, Mr Pen Sovan keeps him company in a frame the same size.... It does not seem that Hanoi's grip is being significantly relaxed. The new Kampuchean Constitution is a rather faithful copy of the Vietnamese Constitution. The school curricula are modeled on those of Vietnam. Every Kampuchean province is paired with a Vietnamese province. No one insinuates that the Vietnamese have begun to "colonize" some regions in the eastern part of the country (Krantie and Stung-Treng) and in the south (Prey-Veng and Svay-Rieng).

In the "political" ministries, such as interior, national defense, information and culture, the number of Vietnamese advisers--most of them from the north--reportedly remains unchanged. By contrast, in some technical ministries, such as transport and health, the foreign presence seems to have declined. For many observers, there is no doubt that what is being built on a bureaucratic framework is /"a Vietnamese-style socialism."/ Being familiar with the experience of their big neighbor, Phnom Penh's leaders should at the very least be able to avoid the same mistakes.

As for the Vietnamese troops (there are said to be 200,000 of them), it would be stretching the truth to say they pass unnoticed, even in Phnom Penh, where they guard "strategic" buildings--banks, airports, etc.--and provide nightwatch services in the city. More numerous than before, it seems Kampuchean soldiers are participating in operations to preserve law and order, especially monitoring the roads in the southern part of the country.

Having said that, and perhaps because the troops from Hanoi have received orders to be discreet and get along, Kampuchea does not look like an occupied country, at least in the regions usually accessible to foreign visitors. Does their fighting

* Which took place on 1 May.

spirit perhaps leave something to be desired? Since they seek refuge in Thailand, we know there are instances of deserters. Could there have been, as some maintain, mutinies at Siem-Reap?

Fresh Onslaught of Khmer Rouge Attacks

The Vietnamese Army appears to control a very large part of "useful Kampuchea." But no one knows exactly what is happening in the forest and mountain areas, particularly those near the Thai border, and especially up by Prey-Vihear and Pursat, which do not get international assistance.

The Khmer Rouge have been increasing with more violence and intensity their guerrilla activities--sabotage, attacks on trains and trucks,--throughout the country since the beginning of the year; this is not unconnected with the elections. In that connection, the least secure regions are considered to be those of Kompong-Thom (dockworkers at the port no longer work nights) and Siem-Reap (the great detour around Angkor is impractical).

Hanoi's troops have had difficulties putting out of action those groups which the Phnom Penh authorities describe as "bandits." The harassing tactics the latter utilize oblige the government to stay vigilant. It is difficult to see, however, how the Khmer Rouge can turn the situation around. They have neither arms nor men enough to do so in the foreseeable future. The Vietnamese Army remains the guarantor of the /status quo./

A fallback solution? The Kampucheans know what it is that they do not want: the Khmer Rouge, even when disguised as sheep. As for Prince Sihanouk, he still enjoys some popularity, despite his confusing shifts of position. If truly free elections were held in the country, he would probably receive the majority of the votes. "It would be good if he came back," people are heard to say. But, very few people would be ready to take up arms to hasten his return. Disillusioned and resigned, many Kampucheans realize, in a word, that they are lightweights compared to their neighbors, that they are condemned to depend on a big power. What use would it be, under such conditions, to fight simply to change masters? Today Vietnam, tomorrow China?

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PAKISTAN

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON AL-ZULFIQAR THWARTED

LD271211 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 27 May 81 p 6

[Dispatch by Bruce Loudon: "Bhutto Guerrillas Say 'We Foiled Assassins'"]

[Excerpt] New Delhi--Kabul-based guerrilla insurgents opposed to the military regime in Pakistan claimed last night to have thwarted an attempt to assassinate the leadership of Al-Zulfiqar, the movement which carried out the hijacking of a Pakistani airliner in March, and which is led by Murtazar Bhutto, elder son of Pakistan's former prime minister, who was hanged in 1979.

The claim was made in a communique sent to THE DAILY TELEGRAPH office in New Delhi and signed by the "information secretary, revolutionary high command Al-Zulfiqar."

The communique said that the would-be assassins were personally supervised by Gen Fazle Haq, governor of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, and one of the men closest to Gen. Ziaul Haq, Pakistan's military ruler.

One of the would-be assassins, Lt-Major Bunerí who belongs to a special commando unit of the Pakistan army, "was captured and tried by a revolutionary court."

Subsequently, according to the communique, Al-Zulfiqar's Politburo ordered his execution and the communique included a grisly photograph said to be of Lt-Major Bunerí, his bullet-ridden body lying in a shallow grave.

"Let the execution of Lt-Major Bunerí be an unambiguous lesson to all potential assassins and agents of Zia's junta as to the fate that awaits them," the communique said.

It gave few details of the alleged assassination plot, but indicated that it involved an ambush in what was termed "a mountain camp." But it is believed that the leadership of Al-Zulfiqar is located in Kabul.

Many young Pakistani exiles are being trained as guerrillas in houses next door to KGB headquarters in the Afghan capital. Russian, Cuban and Palestinian instructors are frequently seen with the Pakistanis.

Murtazar Bhutto is one of the two principal leaders of the guerrilla group. He is known in Kabul by the code name Dr Salahuddin. The other is his younger brother, Shahnawaz, who is known as Nabil.

It is now generally thought that "Al-Zulfiqar" will aim to launch a campaign of terrorism designed to topple Gen Zia's regime.

In yesterday's communique, Al-Zulfiqar for the first time, claimed that it recently "bombed" the residence in Rawalpindi Cantonment of Gen K. M. Arif, Gen Zia's chief of staff and, in effect, the number two man in the military regime. The communique said that Gen Arif was seen fleeing from the house in his pajamas.

CSO: -220/290

KGB ENGINEERED HIJACKING TO GET MUNIR WARRAICH

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 7 Apr 81 pp 1, 6

[Article: /Munir Warraich, a Qadiani, Spied for a Communist Country; Russia Pressured the Hijackers to Get Him Released; Warraich Sold His Country for Wine, Women and Wealth; His Service Record in the Navy Was Bad; Former Administration Transferred Him to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Saved His Career; A Big Power Has Possibly Already Put Him to Death For Confessing to Pakistani Authorities; Today is Warraich's Birthday/--passage enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] Islamabad, 6 April (APP)--On a hot June night many years ago, two men were seen walking toward Faruqia Market, a shopping center located in Sector 6/1 in Islamabad, Pakistan. One of these men was a brown-eyed Pakistani, the other a well-built man from an East European country. Both had come out with intentions of buying and selling, but their shopping had nothing to do with Faruqia Market. The East European, a diplomat from a country which belongs to the Warsaw Pact, was buying official government secrets; the Pakistani, an officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, was selling these secrets in exchange for money, bottles of whiskey and other items of luxury. When these dirty dealings came to the notice of the Pakistani government, it put the Foreign Affairs officer under surveillance. After 4 years, on March 17, 1981, this traitor is serving a sentence of 14 years of hard labor in a Pakistani jail. But he had served only one week of that sentence when the hijackers of a Pakistan International Airlines plane asked for, and got, his release in exchange for the release of passengers on that plane. This man was not a political personality; he was merely an agent selling his country's secrets for his personal benefit. The obvious question is: Why did the hijackers, who had political motives, demand freedom for this traitor? The only answer is that they had no interest of their own in seeing him free, but a big power put pressure on them to negotiate his release because he was the man who revealed the secrets of the presence and the activities of foreign spies in Pakistan. For this, the big power for which he sold his country will probably execute him. This man, who traded his country's honor so cheaply, is Munir Warraich, age 35. Warraich was a commander in the Pakistan navy. Later on he was given a position in Foreign Affairs, and soon afterwards he started spying, selling the nation's secrets to a communist country. When he was caught, he confessed to his crimes and gave out the details about the spy network in Pakistan. Warraich fits perfectly the profile of a secret agent. He had an air of refinement about him, he was fond of a high standard of living and he had an impressive

personality. His expensive tastes and his thirst for liquor started him on the way to becoming an agent of a foreign country. Munir Warraich confessed that the embassy of an East European country had availed of his services. Warraich came from a family with business background. He was born on April 7, 1946 in Qadian, and if he is still alive, on this birthday today he must be crying in some foreign country. Munir was educated in some of the best schools providing Western education in Pakistan—Convent of Jesus and Mary in Lahore, St Danes High School in Lahore, St Patric' High School in Karachi. In 1936, he joined the Pakistan Navy as a cadet; he was commissioned in the navy in June, 1967. He received expert training in radio and electronics at Pakistan Navy Engineering College and passed the basic submarine course. He served on Pakistani ships P.N.S. Dacca, Mujahed, Karsaz, Dilawar and Zafar. He got married in 1968. During the India-Pakistan war of 1965, he served on P.N.S. Karsaz, and in the war of 1971 he was on submarine Mangru.

Munir Warraich was still in the navy when his weaknesses began to become clear to his superiors. As a result, bad reports were written up about his work performance. In 1974 he was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a move that saved his career. Munir's joining Foreign Affairs opened new doors for him to parties, receptions, dinners and colorful evenings, and he began to satisfy his demands for wine and women. Taking advantage of his new position, he began to make contacts with foreign diplomats, particularly the types who are always on the lookout for greedy, amoral persons who can do spying for them. One of these foreign officials targetted Mr Warraich and began to spread the golden net around him. This diplomat from an East European country first observed Munir Warraich carefully for 2 years, studied his interests and weaknesses. He found Munir Warraich quite fit for the deplorable mission that he had in mind. In the beginning, Warraich was offered less expensive gifts like neckties, but soon he was showered with more expensive merchandise. Warraich got crates of whiskey and luxury items like an air conditioner, a refrigerator, as well as money. As for the exchange of information, Warraich and this diplomat met for that purpose for the first time on the evening of June, 1977 near Faruqia Market. After that many meetings took place. According to reports, within an interval of one month they met 15 times. Islamabad becomes a deserted place as soon as it gets dark. By 2000 hours, its beautiful streets and roads become lonely.

Warraich and this foreign official would meet at some out-of-the-way corner some time between 8 and 11 pm. The only witnesses to their rendezvous would be the street light posts or tall trees, or at least that is what they both thought. The eyes of the intelligence officers of Pakistan followed them. If a passerby spotted these two talking, he could not possibly suspect that something was wrong. The diplomat usually wore loose-fitting clothes, had a Jinnah cap on and would carry a plastic shopping bag. To any passerby he would thus appear to be a native of the northern region of Pakistan. If some day Munir would fail to keep his appointment, the diplomat would head for Munir's residence—House No 13, Street 44, Sector 6/1. He would quietly enter the house and ask Munir for an explanation. Munir Warraich was now completely in his grips. In 1978, Warraich resigned from his job in Foreign Affairs and started working in the navy of a Gulf country at a salary of 18000.00 rupees per year. He was not aware that Pakistani intelligence had kept him under surveillance for quite some time and that the ring around him was tightening. In 1979 Warraich came home on leave. Now the game was over for him;

he was in the hands of the law. Warraich gave up and confessed to all his crimes. He was sentenced to 14 years of hard labor. The hijackers demanded his release, but Warraich did not want to leave Pakistan. He wanted to stay in a Pakistani jail for the duration of his sentence. Why did the hijackers demand from Syria that he be handed over to them? Why didn't he want to leave Pakistan? Obviously he feared the consequences of exposing the secret and covert actions of a big power. The Daily Telegraph has said that Russia was behind the release of Munir Warraich. Did Munir know that he would be punished by the Russians and felt safe in a Pakistani jail?

These questions have yet to be answered. Today the house he lived in on Street 44 is vacant. There are no more parties there, no more drinking, fun and noise. A further misfortune for Munir was that his contact person, the East European diplomat, had not as yet paid him in full for the dirty work Munir did, and now perhaps he will never get paid.

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CSO: 4203/63

INVESTIGATION OF SOURCES OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 6 Apr 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Where Are the Weapons Coming from?"]

[Text] The other day police arrested the notorious dacoit Umran Baledi and his companions and recovered machine guns and explosive materials from their possession in significant numbers. It is all very well that the dacoits were arrested, but for us the more important fact is that such a large amount of ammunition was recovered from them, ammunition which made it possible for them to lead a life of lawlessness. We have raised the question again and again: Where are the dacoits and political offenders getting their machine guns? The machine gun is not a weapon that can be bought and sold on the open market. No civilian is given a license to own one. Only the police and armed services personnel are allowed to have these weapons and they are illegal in the hands of anyone else. Trading in them is forbidden. Licensed gun and ammunition shops cannot sell such weapons. When this is the case, it is extremely important for us to investigate the channels through which these guns are entering the country. Many offenders are caught and many machine guns are recovered from them. Why is it that the police is unable to find out how they got into the hands of these criminals? We must determine with certainty the sources and the routes through which guns and explosives are being distributed in the country.

In the headlines a few days ago, it was revealed that the car used in killing Ashraf, the victim, was sold by his killers to buy a machine gun in Quetta. An investigation should be launched to find out how and where the killers purchased the gun. In our opinion, far more important than dealing with the criminals themselves is to get at the sources which supply the deadly weapons to our young men and help them turn into criminals. We repeat our demand for a thorough investigation of these sources and for putting a lid on them.

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CSO: 4203/63

PRC MUSLIMS AID AFGHAN REFUGEES

GF310409 Karachi DAWN in English 25 May 81 p 12

[Text] A consignment of relief goods for Afghan refugees, donated by the China Islamic Association, was handed over yesterday by the Chinese consul general, Mr Wang Ching-jung, to the Pakistan Government.

The consignment of 18.31 tons contains canned food and cotton blankets, and was received by the chief commissioner for Afghan refugees, Brig Saeed Azar, says a PID handout.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese consul general lauded the effort of the Pakistan Government for the relief of Afghan refugees. He said that for more than 1 year, Pakistan had accommodated over 2 million refugees. This noble act had won the praise and support from the peace-loving nations and the people in the world who upheld justice. The Chinese highly admired and appreciated the humanitarian spirit of the Pakistan Government and people, he added.

The consul-general said the government and people of China were concerned about the situation in Afghanistan. He said: "We support the struggle of the Afghan freedom fighters against the Soviet invasion, sympathize with the Afghan refugees, who have fled their homeland. The relief goods donated by the China Islamic Association are meager in quantity, yet it manifests the profound feeling cherished by the Chinese Muslims for Afghan refugee brothers.

"The industrious and honest Afghan people are now deprived of their freedom. Being unwilling to be slaves and docile subjects of the Karmal puppet regime, they were compelled to leave their beloved native soil, where they lived for generation after generation."

The chief commissioner, while receiving the valuable gift, expressed thanks to the government and brotherly people of China for their assistance to Afghan refugees. He said this donation was yet another solid proof of the deep-rooted friendship between China and Pakistan.

SIND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM TO BE IMPLEMENTED

GF302015 Karachi DAWN in English 29 May 81 p 9

[Text] May 28 Sukkur--The Sind government is implementing a World Bank-aided project costing Rs 150 million to run agricultural extension service on modern and scientific lines.

This was stated by the provincial agriculture and food minister, Sardar Ghulam Mohammad Khan, Mehar, while addressing a large public gathering at Daharki.

He said that 5-year project called agricultural extension and adoptive research project would be formally put into operation in a big way from the next financial year.

Sardis Sahib said that under the project, the number of agricultural field assistants would be significantly increased so that each assistant got fewer farmers in his charge to effectively cater to their needs.

He said that these farm workers would be imparted training in the latest know-how of agricultural practices and effective extension methods.

Each field agricultural worker would be provided mobility and accommodation in order to improve his efficiency, the minister added.

He further said that the project would cover five districts intensively and the remaining districts extensively. The project, he said, also envisages establishment of adoptive research farms and soil testing laboratories to provide effective links between research work and the extension service.

The minister said that every problem of the people would be quickly attended to and solved and it was in this context that Sind governor, Lt Gen S.M. Abbasi, had formed the civil cabinet.

All cabinet members, the minister said, would endeavor hard to truly serve the people of the province.

Speaking to the members of Hindu community at Jarwar the minister said that the rights of the minorities would be properly protected and they would be given equal opportunities in the national building activities.

The agricultural minister who is on a week-long meet-the-people tour of Sukkur also visited Sui Sharif, Garhi Chakar and Mirpur Mathelo.

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

ANTI-ISLAM ELEMENTS--Faisalabad, May 25--The federal minister for labor and manpower, Mr Ghulam Dastgir Khan, said that any move against Islam and ideology of Pakistan would not be tolerated and the elements propagating foreign ideologies would be dealt with an iron hand. Addressing students of the University of Agriculture here Saturday, he said that Pakistan was secured in the name of Islam and it would maintain its sovereignty by protecting the golden principles of Islam. The federal minister said that the present regime was trying its best to bring complete Islamic order in this country and added that certain steps in this direction had already been taken by the government and gradually all laws would be Islamized. He called upon the students community to play their effective role in bringing Islamic order in this country. He said that students were indeed soldiers of Islam and they would help the government in weeding out antistate and anti-Islam elements from the educational institutions. He declared that the government had full strength to deal with these elements and would not further tolerate their activities. [Excerpt] [GF310433 Karachi DAWN in English 26 May 81 p 11]

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